

صلى الله عليه وسلم

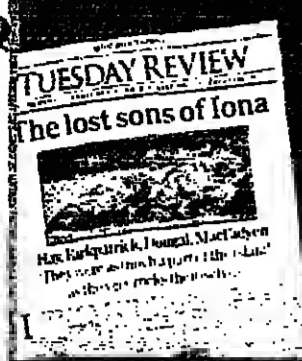


THE INDEPENDENT

No 3,795

TUESDAY 15 DECEMBER 1998

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Iona grieves for its young men

FRONT



The growing pains of Piers Morgan

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Blair hardens stance on Europe

TONY BLAIR widened the divide between Labour and the Tories on Europe yesterday, when he vowed that he would not be deflected from pursuing a positive, pro-EU policy.

By nailing his colours firmly to the Europhile mast, Mr Blair also launched a fightback aimed at winning over readers of Britain's Eurosceptic newspapers to what he sees as the benefits of closer EU integration. The Prime Minister told the Commons that Britain would get a better deal by being "positive and constructive" in

the EU. But William Hague warned that Mr Blair's decision to "go with the flow" would suck Britain into an "United States of Europe."

The hardening of the Government's pro-EU stance came as an opinion poll suggested that slightly more people in the UK approve of the single currency than disapprove.

A pan-European survey conducted for the French news agency, Agence France-Presse,

which questioned just under 1,000 people in Britain, found that 48 per cent of them had a positive view of the euro and 43 per cent a negative one.

The finding will encourage Mr Blair, who has concluded that repeated threats to veto EU proposals weaken Britain's influence - even if they play well to the domestic audience.

He thinks Gordon Brown, the Chancellor, should have shown more restraint recently when other EU countries called for a common tax policy. "The veto should be a weapon of last

resort, not first resort," one minister said last night.

Mr Blair decided to appeal over the heads of sceptical newspapers to their readers, after private Labour polls suggested people thought much of the recent coverage of tax harmonisation was based on "dogma" rather than facts.

His decision to counter attack from a pro-EU platform widens the gap between Labour and the Tories and means that Europe is certain to be a key battleground at the next General Election.

"We are very happy to have lots of clear blue water between us and the Tories on this issue," said one Downing Street source yesterday.

Mr Blair and Mr Hague clashed angrily in the Commons when the Prime Minister reported back on last week's summit of EU leaders in Austria. "The Government will not be swayed from its positive and constructive European policy," Mr Blair said. "I have no doubt that it is the right course for Britain's future."

Saying the Opposition's pol-

icy was driven by "headbangers in the Shadow Cabinet", he told Mr Hague: "Under your leadership the lunatics have taken over the asylum."

The Tory leader accused Mr Blair of saying one thing to the British people and another to the country's EU partners. He said the Prime Minister was more concerned with attacking the British media than preventing the development of a European superstate, which was now "in prospect."

Mr Blair claimed that Britain had helped to shape the

debate at the Vienna summit on economic, employment and other issues in a way which was fully consistent with national interests. The Tories warned that the meeting had moved towards a common tax policy by approving a study of company taxation and said Mr Blair had performed a U-turn by agreeing to job creation targets.

Mr Blair told MPs the £2bn-a-year rebate on Britain's EU contributions was "fully justified and will remain".

However, Joschka Fischer, Germany's Foreign Minister,

increased the pressure on Britain to surrender part of its refund, by warning that the plan to allow Eastern European countries to join the EU could be "stopped in its tracks" if member states failed to reach an agreement on EU funding by next March.

In a tough message outlining Germany's priorities for its spell in the EU's rotating presidency, which starts next month, Mr Fischer also called for closer economic and financial coordination.

Tory 'lunatics', page 8

Clinton's visit seals destiny of Palestine

BY PATRICK COCKBURN
in Gaza

PRESIDENT BILL Clinton yesterday gave the Palestinian people the gift they had been waiting for when he effectively recognised their claim to independence by addressing their parliament in Gaza.

In a day filled with emotion and a sense of history, the Palestinians in return voted to revoke the controversial clauses in the Palestinian charter that call for the destruction of Israel.

Mr Clinton said the Palestinian people were free to "define their own destiny on their own land".

Yasser Arafat, the Palestinian leader and head of state designate, called on the meeting of Palestinian officials and members of the Palestinian parliament to nullify the offending clauses. Israel has demanded they be revoked before proceeding with its limited withdrawal from the West Bank.

The vote may prove decisive in restarting the Wye peace agreement. David Bar-Ilan, a senior adviser to Benjamin Netanyahu, the Israeli Prime Minister, said: "The issue, as far as we are concerned, is now off the table." Israel is due to withdraw from another 5 per cent of the West Bank at the end of the week.

President Clinton's visit to Gaza is also seen by Mr Arafat as marking an end to the long

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era of confrontation between the United States and the Palestinians. He said: "I reaffirm to you what I told you in the White House, that I will continue the peace process away from violence and confrontation."

In the first speech by an American president to the combined Palestinian leadership, and the first visit to the Occupied Territories, Mr Clinton praised the Palestinians for voting to revoke the anti-Israel clauses. "You did a good thing today by raising your hands," he said. "You know why? It has nothing to do with the government of Israel. You touched the people of Israel."

President Clinton's emphasis on the need to conciliate the Israeli public stems from his doubts about the willingness of the Israeli Prime Minister to carry out the letter of the Wye Agreement on withdrawal from the Occupied Territories. To stay in office, Mr Netanyahu needs the support of the far right which does not want a pull-back.



Yasser Arafat holding Bill Clinton's hand against his heart during the American President's visit to Gaza yesterday

Gary Hershorn/Reuters

Mr Clinton's arrival by helicopter in Gaza took place under tight security with checkpoints every few hundred yards on all the city's roads. Patrol boats guarded the foreshore and few of the one million Palestinians in Gaza - 60 per cent of them refugees - caught so much as a glimpse of the US President.

The city was draped in American Stars and Stripes, which for the last 30 years have only been displayed in Gaza to be burnt in protest at US support for Israel. Hillary Clinton, who, unlike her husband has declared her support for a Palestinian state, was mobbed by children when she visited Shab refugee camp in central Gaza.

President Clinton praised Mr Arafat for not walking away from the negotiations with Israel when he had many reasons to do so. He said he understood Palestinian grievances over Jewish settlements, land confiscations and house demolitions. And in a marked change of tone from that used by previous US presidents, he referred to the Palestinian "history of dispossession and dispersal".

During the presidential visit, a halt has been put to the recent wave of demonstrations and riots over the continued imprisonment of Palestinians by Israel. Four Palestinians have been killed in violence on

the West Bank as Mr Arafat comes under pressure from his own people not to let his pursuit of an understanding with the US lead to Palestinians remaining in jail for carrying out his orders.

The Palestinian charter, written in 1964, has been a matter of dispute between Israel and the Palestinians since peace talks started. Mr Arafat insists the disputed clauses were revoked by the Palestine National Council two years ago with the agreement of the US and the previous Israeli government. Mr Netanyahu said it had not been properly nullified and insisted on yesterday's show of hands.

Yesterday's vote should open the way for a three-way meeting between President Clinton, Mr Arafat and Mr Netanyahu to discuss differences over the implementation of the Wye Agreement, which has been frozen by Israel. Nathan Sbaransky, a member of Mr Netanyahu's inner cabinet, said last night that he expected the meeting to take place.

Mr Netanyahu welcomed the revocation of the charter, but claimed it was the result of his pressure. He added that there were other conditions which the Palestinians would have to meet but did not say if this week's Israeli withdrawal would take place.

Young are lazy, fat and drink too much

BRITAIN'S YOUTH is lazy, gluttonous and addicted to booze and fags, according to the newest and most comprehensive survey of young people's health, published by the Government yesterday.

The rot sets in from the age of five as children of both sexes spend increasing amounts of time in front of the television, eating the wrong foods and getting fat. By their early teens they are experimenting with cigarettes and alcohol, spending more hours slouched in darkened rooms and staring up

BY JEREMY LAURANCE
Health Editor

future health problems. By their early twenties, over 40 per cent are regular smokers and more than 20 per cent are overweight.

The survey of almost 20,000 people aged from two to 24 is the most extensive undertaken of the age group.

It shows that the "health gap" between rich and poor begins in infancy and widens through childhood and adolescence into early adulthood.

Professor Liam Donaldson,

the Chief Medical Officer, said the findings should ring alarm bells among the young. "That is the stage at which the foundations for a healthy life are laid," he said.

Professor Donaldson denied that the survey demonstrated the failure of government efforts over the past decade to persuade young people to eat their greens, walk to school instead of going by car and decline drink and drugs. "I wouldn't see it as evidence of a failure of public health programmes but of the need to re-

focus them," he said. "It is a risk-taking age group. We cannot abolish all the behaviour, even should we want to. The important thing is to ensure that it is not carried through into adult life."

The findings demonstrated the need to act early to prevent young people developing the bad habits that could turn them into chronic invalids later in life.

Too much effort and too many resources were expended on treating the consequences of unhealthy lifestyles rather than changing the

lifestyles themselves. "We need to be upstream preventing people falling in, than going downstream and pulling them out," Professor Donaldson said.

A White Paper expected early in the new year will set out the Government's plans for promoting public health and will suggest ways of reducing health inequalities which begin in the earliest years. The new survey provides a benchmark against which future progress will be measured, Professor Donaldson said.

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AND HIS STRUGGLE AGAINST THE ENIGMAS
BY DAVID HALLIWELL

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SUNDAY TELEGRAPH

"AN OUTSTANDING CAST"
DAILY TELEGRAPH

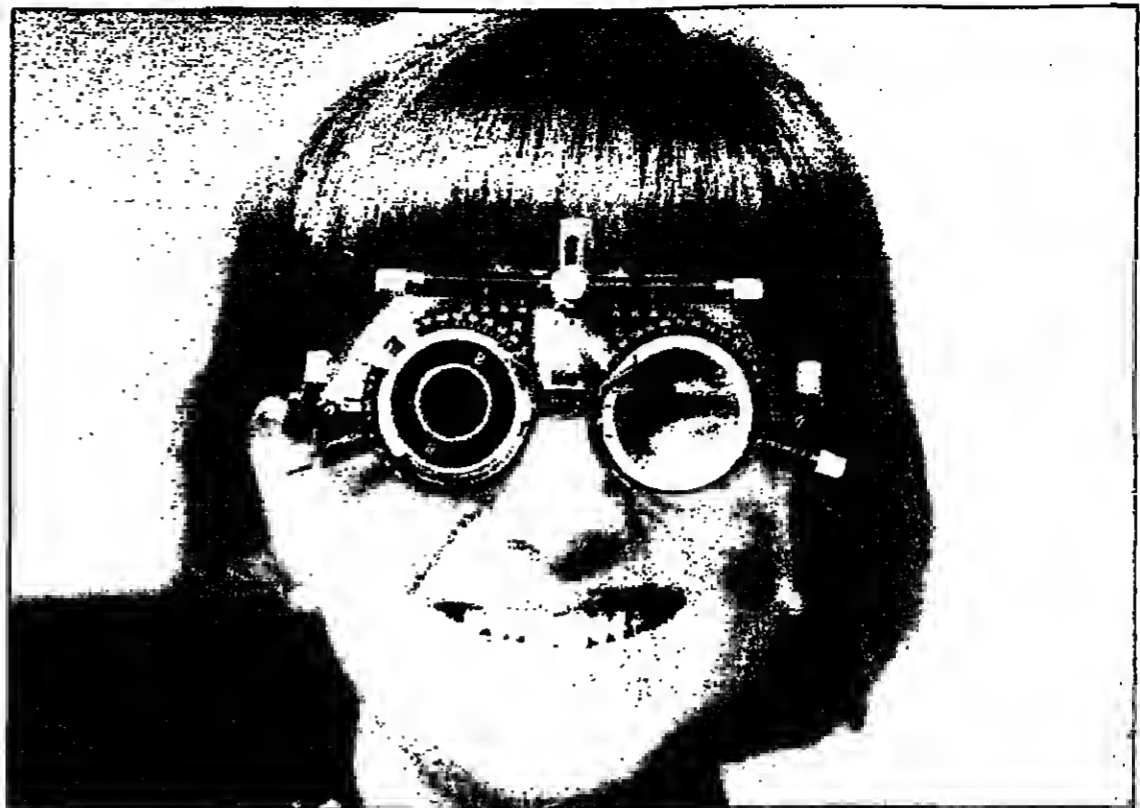
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COMEDY THEATRE



Brian Harris was highly commended in the Georges Bendrihem Prize for his picture (left) of Martin McGuinness embracing Cyril Ramaphosa, as was John Voos for his of Emma Nicholson (right) at a Lib Dem conference

Winning images put frame on history

A STUDY of Gerry Adams, the Sinn Féin president, framed in a doorway at his Belfast office, has won an international prize for David Rose, a photographer on *The Independent*.

The Georges Bendrihem Prize, dedicated to the memory of a French photographer who died covering President Jacques Chirac's visit to Tunisia in 1995, is presented for the year's best picture depicting a European political figure. Rose was presented with the award and a cheque for 25,000 francs (£2,700) yesterday by the President at the Elysee Palace in Paris.

Two other *Independent* photographers, John Voos and Brian Harris, were highly commended.

Presenting the award, President Chirac said that in Rose's black-and-white picture one could feel pressing on the shoulders of the leader of Sinn Féin "all the crushing weight of a future difficult to construct". Rose is the first photographer from outside France to win the prize since it was set up in 1996.

Andy Blackmore, picture editor of *The Independent*, said: "David Rose's portrait shows some of the timeless qualities seen in all classic photojournalism: the instant bite of its geometric composition with the lingering after-taste of its depth. David has employed what can be a clichéd tool of composition to outstanding effect by framing Gerry Adams in the door frame."

"He goes on to notice the light behind the subject, which gives the image an ethereal

BY DAVID LISTER
Art News Editor

feeling. The highlight on the door handle to the left, and the shape of the light switch to the right add an extra dynamic to the image, to produce a photograph that is both graphic and subtle at the same time."

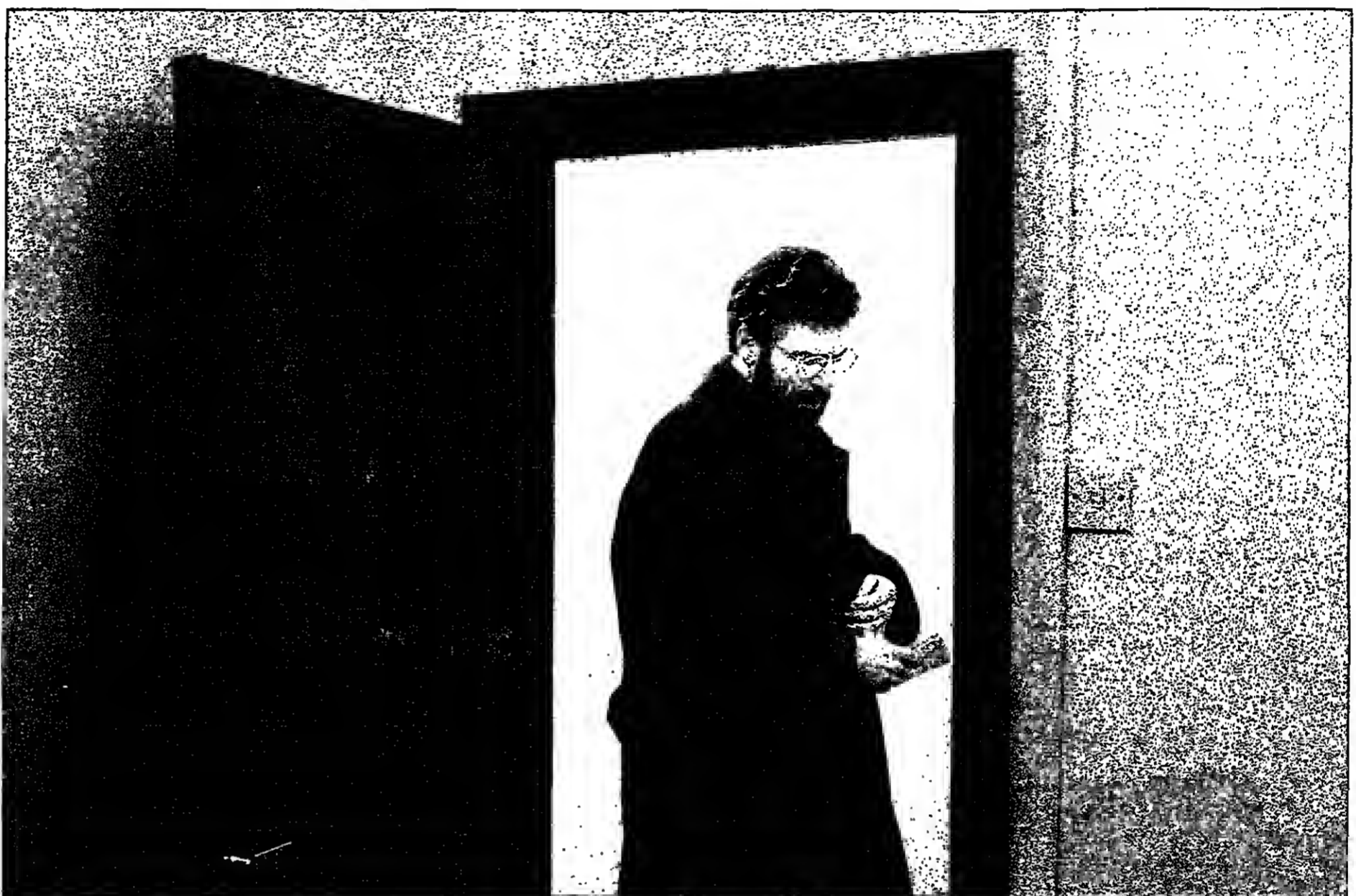
Voos's entry was a picture of Emma Nicholson having her eyes tested in Brighton on the second day of the Liberal Democrat conference in September.

Harris snapped a comradely embrace between Martin McGuinness of Sinn Féin and Cyril Ramaphosa, former secretary-general of the African National Congress, during a Sinn Féin rally in Belfast.

Congratulating Rose on becoming "laureat du premier prix Georges Bendrihem 1998" President Chirac presented him with the trophy, a silver plate marked in the centre by a medal symbolising photography. The prize was decided by a jury made up of international photo-journalists.

Independent photographers have consistently won awards since the paper's launch in 1986 and *The Independent* is Newspaper of the Year for Photography. The award continues *The Independent*'s tradition of promoting striking photography, which has been recognised in awards including the Nikon Press Awards and UK Guild of Picture Editors Awards.

The Georges Bendrihem Prize was created by friends and colleagues of the photographer.



Gerry Adams, the Sinn Féin president, in his office in Belfast, the image which won David Rose of 'The Independent' first place in the Georges Bendrihem prize

The trouble with 'overbearing' Sir Bernard, by his neighbours

DETAILS EMERGED last night of an extraordinary feud between Baroness Thatcher's former press secretary, Sir Bernard Ingham, and his neighbours. Angry words have escalated to the point where the police were brought in and Sir Bernard now faces possible criminal damage charges.

A sauna, two wooden garages and a brightly coloured children's playhouse belonging to Barry Cripps, a builder, have fuelled Sir Bernard's growing discontent with his neighbours at "Nutcracker Gables" in Purley, Surrey.

The feud, over parking rights and property boundaries, has simmered for years. On Sunday it grew more heated when Sir Bernard allegedly kicked - and dented - Mr Cripps' shiny Mercedes because it was parked in

a way that blocked his drive.

Yesterday, the Crippses told how they - instead of the Fleet Street editors of the Thatcher years - were the victims of Sir Bernard's allegedly "overbearing attitude".

The row is believed to have started when Sir Bernard, 66, saw a car belonging to Mr and Mrs Cripps parked near the garage at the back of his detached bungalow. Yesterday Mr Cripps released a statement claiming Sir Bernard kicked and dented the door of his Mercedes during the confrontation. Sir Bernard denies this.

Mervyn Toogood, a neighbour who read out a statement on behalf of Mr and Mrs Cripps, said: "They have already had to endure Sir Bernard's overbearing attitude for several years and do not wish to engage



Ingham: Facing possible criminal damage charges

in a public dispute with him.

"His behaviour over this period has now culminated in the incident occurring on Sunday December 13 in which he kicked and dented the dri-

ver's door of their Mercedes.

"They have an undisputed right of way over the vehicular access behind Sir Bernard's property which enables them to drive to their rear garage. It was whilst attempting to drive up this shared access way that Sir Bernard kicked the car."

Sir Bernard was keeping tight-lipped today and his wife told reporters he was away.

Mr Toogood, a marketing consultant who lives opposite Sir Bernard, said there had been a history of disputes between the two neighbours and that yesterday's incident was "the straw that broke the camel's back".

The incident is thought to be the culmination of disagreements between the neighbours including a boundary dispute. Sir Bernard, who has been

bailed to return to Croydon police station at a future date, is also reported to have disliked two garages built by Mr Cripps, a wooden sauna in his garden and a playhouse for his son.

Mr and Mrs Cripps, who have lived in their detached home for about 10 years, are said to have very little contact with Sir Bernard.

Sir Bernard said after the incident: "All that happened was that I have an extremely troublesome neighbour. He drove over my land to try to get his car into a rear garage."

"He knows he shouldn't do so. When I remonstrated with him, he blocked my way into my garage and then alleged that I damaged his door - although I could see no damage."

Leading article, Review, page 3



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Boat tragedy 'ripped heart from Iona'

THE SEARCH for three young men missing, presumed drowned, off the isle of Iona in Scotland resumes today after more than 100 volunteers and emergency rescue workers failed to find any trace of them.

Last night, as one or two locals spoke of how the heart had been "ripped out" of the island, most accepted there is no chance of the men having survived. The talk turned to when the bodies might wash up.

A hospital consultant in

BY ANDREW BUNCOMBE

Oban, Argyll, said that Gordon Grant, 23, who swam to safety only to discover the body of one of his friends, had survived because of his high level of fitness.

His mother, Helen Grant, said: "We are a famous island but not a famous people and we would give anything not to have this attention."

"I am the lucky one - my son is the one who survived - but you have to understand I felt

like a mother to these other boys, as well. It is a great pain we all feel. These boys were the future for this island and we have lost that."

Mrs Grant said the young men had run about together as children. "They were great friends and good people and this has ripped the heart out of our already fragile community."

Yesterday's search for the three men, Logie McFadyen, 24, Alisdair Dougal, 19, and David Kirkpatrick, 23, was assisted by

two helicopters, fishing boats, rescue vessels and dozens of islanders. Steve Monks, HM Coastguard sector manager, accepted there was little chance of finding them alive: "It would be wrong to give anyone false hope by talking about finding survivors. This is a fishing community. It understands the situation."

Mr Grant has told the coastguard that the 14ft dinghy capsized after being hit by a large wave, stoked by south-wester-

ly winds. As he and his friends fought to bail out their boat, one of the gunwales dipped under the water. None of the men - including Robert Hay, whose body was found on Monday - had been wearing life-jackets. "If they had been, we may well have had them with us today," said a coastguard spokesman.

The five men had been travelling back from a Christmas dance on Mull.

'Lost sons', Review Front

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Flabby youngsters put health at risk

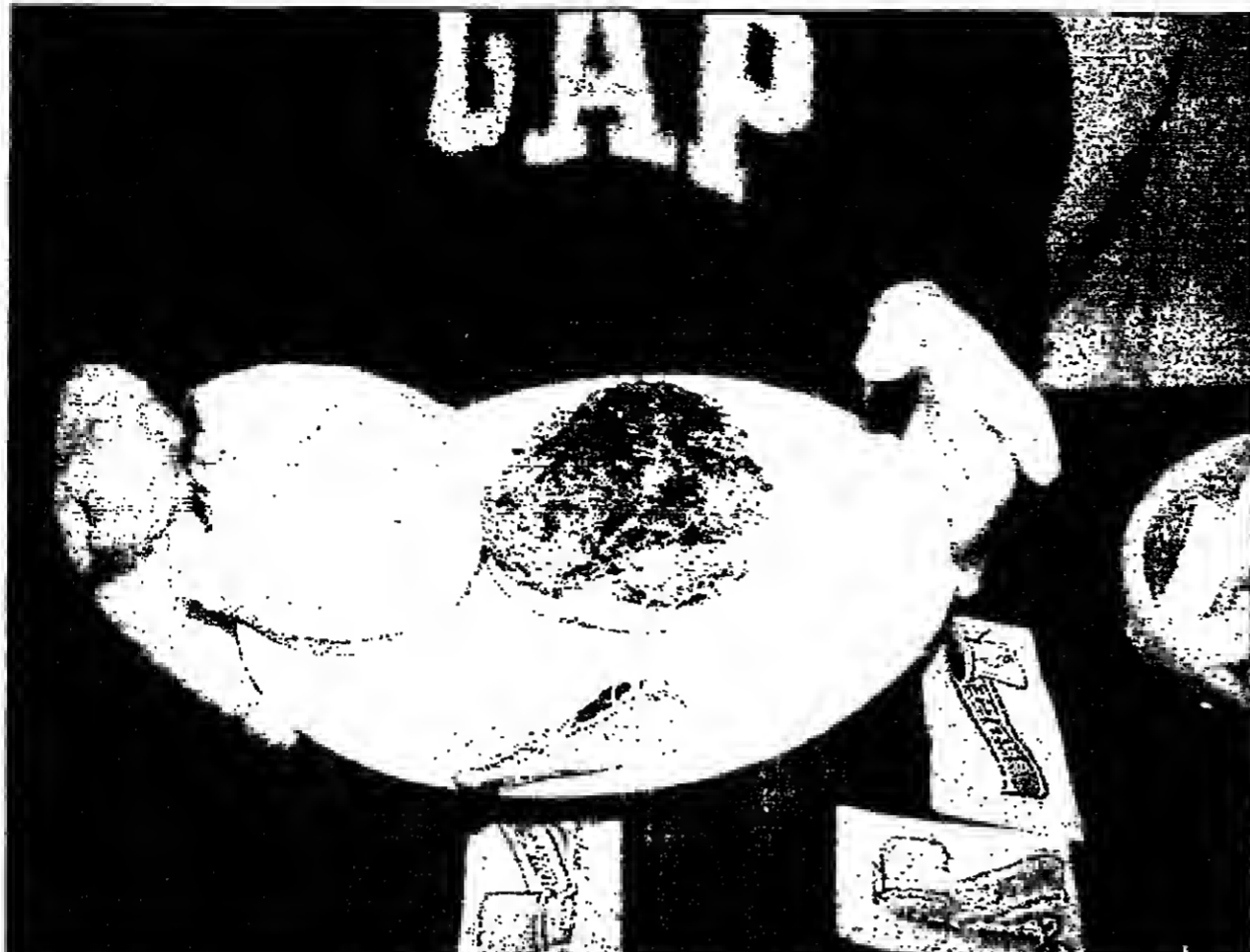
BY JEREMY LAURANCE
Health Editor

FLABBY YOUTHS who prefer to hide behind the bike sheds with a sticky bun and a cigarette rather than chase a football round the sports field present one of the greatest challenges to public health, the Government's chief medical officer said yesterday.

Professor Liam Donaldson said the problems suffered by young people over their weight was one of the most striking findings from a survey, "The Health of Young People 1995-97", released yesterday. The survey, the largest ever undertaken, shows that one-third of those aged 16-24 were overweight or obese.

Most of those carrying excess flesh were aware of the problem and were trying to shed it. But, more worryingly, young women tended to perceive themselves as overweight, even when they were not. Almost half of those who were at their desirable weight, defined as a body mass index (a measure that combines weight and height) of 21-25, said they were trying to lose weight. Even among the underweight (body mass index of 20 or less) one in ten said they were dieting.

Professor Donaldson said too many young women had negative attitudes to their body image and the problem of eating disorders was pervasive and under-recognised. "It has had wide publicity in the media but more needs to be done on



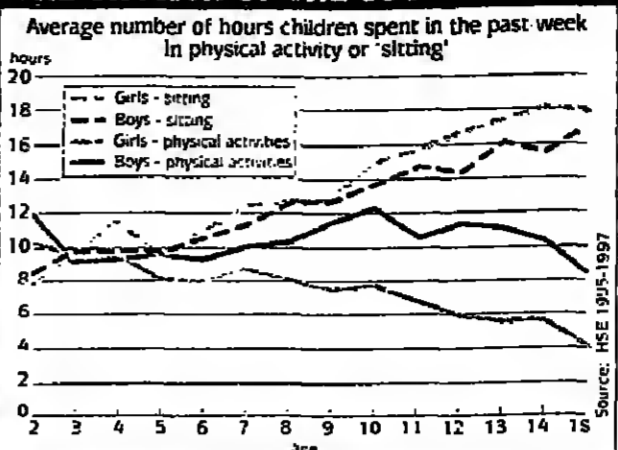
Junk food and lack of exercise contribute to the high proportion of young people with a weight problem. Photofusion

that front by the health service," he said.

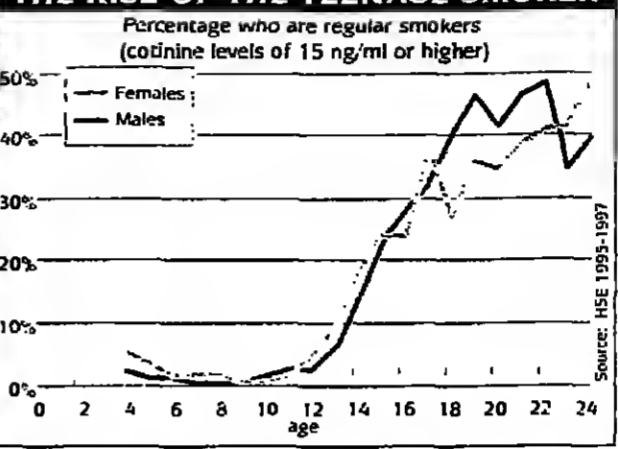
The levels of smoking found among young people are among the highest recorded. Instead of questionnaires, which are unreliable, the researchers

from the Department of Public Health at University College, London, who conducted the survey, took samples of saliva and measured the levels of cotinine, a metabolite of nicotine, which gives an accurate picture

THE GROWTH OF THE COUCH POTATO



THE RISE OF THE TEENAGE SMOKER



cial classes IV and V smoking endures into adult life. People in upper social classes seem to drop it," he said.

The social class gradient was evident across almost every measure of ill health. The children of the poor eat less fruit and vegetables, smoke more, suffer more emotional problems and rate their own health as worse than the children of the rich.

Professor Donaldson said the Government's White Paper on public health, to be published in the new year, would address ways of preventing the health gap between the classes opening up in childhood.

"Health overall has improved a great deal in the second half of this century. Against that background of improvements in most of the causes of death we have seen these social class differences persisting. The White Paper will look at measures across government departments in environment, transport and housing, and public health programmes will strongly benefit from joining them together. It represents a fundamental change of emphasis with the past.

One message does appear to have got through: The need to use sun-cream to prevent sunburn. Over 90 per cent of 12-15 year olds rated this as "very important". Parents also rated it as the most important way of protecting the skin.

However, use of sun-cream declined with age, from 89 per cent at age three to 70 per cent at age 12 and 57 per cent at 15.

OUR STUDENT LIFE

Alistair
Aged 20, 6ft 2in, about 13st 7lb.
Diet: A lot of soup and toast.
Pasta and tuna mayonnaise. Sometimes bolognese and vegetables.
Drinking: Not a lot compared to other students. No bingeing but likes to get "merry".
Smoking: No.
Exercise: Rows twice a week and goes to the gym three or four times a week.
"My diet's not too bad - I don't do kebabs much. I think my drinking is under control. I know a lot of people through the sports clubs, and most people do sport for the social and enjoyment side of it, rather than to get fit."

Rosie
Aged 19, 5ft 10in, about 9st.
Diet: Tries to eat healthily and likes fruit and salads. Has "a Pringle addiction" and loves savoury foods and ice-cream. Usually has a sandwich for lunch and pasta and salad for dinner. Sometimes fast food, but not very often.
Drinking: Likes wine and beer, but doesn't feel that she overdoes it very often.
Smoking: No.
Exercise: Plans to take exercise, and goes swimming sometimes. She hopes to do aerobics with her mum when she goes home for Christmas.
"I do worry that I don't eat properly. When I go home I'm going to try and learn to cook. As for drink, I'm never going



Alistair: soup and toast



Rosie: Pringle addict

Drinking: At least one or two pints every night at work. No getting drunk, just socialising.
Smoking: Sometimes, but, again, just socially.
Exercise: Too busy to fit it in.
"My diet is very, very bad - mostly because I'm running around from place to place. I worry about my health and every week I decide to do something about it, but it never works out that way."

Rachael
Aged 20, 5ft 5in, 8st 7lb.
Diet: Eats whatever is to hand. More of a sandwich girl than a burger girl.
Drinking: Drinks a lot but doesn't worry as she can always remember the night before. Recently drank half a bottle of Bucks Fizz, two glasses of wine and five gin and tonics and still wasn't drunk. "I can go without for ages."
Smoking: She has cut down from 15 to about five a day, but will have about 20 in a night if she goes out.
Exercise: Swims about once a term. She used to do lots of sport at school but hasn't done anything at college.
"People aren't very fit because we have transport everywhere now. You have so many choices so you go out with your friends rather than go to the gym."



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Blood mix-up left boy brain-damaged

A BABY was left severely brain-damaged after being given the wrong blood in a transfusion because of a mix-up over surnames, a court heard yesterday.

James Green needed the transfusion because he fell seriously ill with jaundice when he was four days old but he was given blood intended for another newborn baby with the same name. Instead of O-positive, the commonest type, he received the rarer A-negative which triggered a reaction causing convulsions and heart failure.

The "mismatch" occurred at the Princess Alexandra Hospital, Harlow, Essex in March 1992. James, now aged six, cannot walk, stand without support, talk or do anything for himself.

All hospitals were told to review their procedures for handling blood earlier this year after a study by the Serious Hazards of Transfusion (SHOT) group revealed 169 cases in which errors had been made, putting patients at risk.

In 13 cases patients died and in a further 39 they suffered serious injury requiring treatment in intensive care or

dialysis for kidney failure. Blood for transfusions has to be carefully matched against the blood group and tissue type of the patient before being given to avoid triggering a serious reaction.

James's parents, Dudley and Patricia Green, are seeking substantial damages from North Essex Health Authority, on behalf of their son, at the High Court in London. The health authority has admitted liability and agreed many of the sums claimed, but there is still a dispute over the extent of James's future care needs.

The family's counsel, Robert Owen QC, told Mr Justice Thomas: "He requires care in every aspect of his life, but he is a very lively, intelligent, good-humoured and happy child against all adversities."

Mr Green, a policeman, and his wife, of Stanbourne, Essex, also have a five-year-old daughter, Felicity, and an 18-month-old son, William.

Mrs Green, 43, wept in the witness box as she described the family's "hand-to-mouth

existence. "We are just trying to survive and have been for nearly seven years," she said.

She told the court that James was at boarding school during the week but looked forward to coming home at weekends. It was expected that he would live with his parents for the rest of his life.

She said the family wanted to care for him at home. "We want him safe and want to be with him. I particularly feel responsible for what happened in the first place, and feel I have to be protective," she said.

About 3 million blood transfusions are carried out each year, the vast majority without problems, but when problems do occur they tend to follow a pattern. The findings of the first annual report by SHOT, published earlier this year, said the commonest error, accounting for almost half the cases, was a mix-up in which blood intended for one patient was given to another.

The group was set up independently of the National Blood Service to monitor the safety of blood transfusion.

The hearing, set to last three days, continues.

Efficiency squad will monitor arts

A NEW efficiency squad to monitor the arts across the nation - from museums and galleries to theatres and orchestras - is to be set up by Chris Smith, the Secretary of State for Culture, Media, and Sport.

Among areas it will examine are salary levels in the national companies. The Culture Department is concerned that far more staff at the Royal Opera House earn above £50,000 a year than at the National Theatre or the Royal Shakespeare Company. It will also look at potential ideas from the sports sector.

The squad will be established next week, made up initially of six civil servants reporting to Mr Smith. He unveiled the new unit, called Quest (Quality, Efficiency and Standards Team), yesterday as he announced changes to the arts funding system and de-

BY DAVID LISTER
Arts News Editor

tailed grants to the national museums. He also set out his shake-up of government-funded bodies in the arts, museums, film, tourism, architecture, sport and heritage sectors.

Mr Smith said it was "a serious and timely review of the relationship between the Government and the cultural world". The Government could not just provide the money and sit back and hope for results, he said. "We will give direction: we will set targets and chase progress, and where appropriate we will take direct action to make sure that our objectives are achieved."

A £290m grant will be phased in over three years, with arts and museums the main winners. The Arts Council of England's £190m budget would

increase to £227m from next April, to £237m in 2000, and to £252m in 2001. Museums and galleries would see their allocation rise from £203m this year to £247m in 2001.

The three-year deals would offer more stability, Mr Smith said. But he added: "In all cases the financial allocations will be closely tied to outcomes which reflect our four central themes - access, excellence and innovation, education and the creative industries."

He was challenged that setting up the new squad was riding roughshod over the "arm's length" principle - in which government gave money but did not interfere with the running of institutions - under which the arts have been funded since the Second World War.

A Culture Department source said later that the "arm's length" principle has

been "reinvented". Mr Smith defended the change, saying that eventually Quest would be expanded. The idea was to include people with experience of running arts institutions.

Mr Smith said that children and pensioners would have free access to museums from next year. Adults would continue to have free access to museums that are now free. Some £30m has been put into a fund while negotiations with museums continue. The Science Museum and Natural History Museum in London are reluctant to give up charging.

David Barrie, director of the National Art Collections Fund, which campaigns for free admission, said: "Will the £30m which the Government has put aside for 2001 be enough to do the trick?"

leading article, Review page 3



Children enjoying an interactive exhibit at the Science Museum, which is reluctant to end charges Robert Hallam

CULTURE OF CHANGE FOR A NEW ERA

THE ROYAL Fine Art Commission will be replaced by a new Architecture Commission to advise on architecture and disseminate good practice. "Coincidentally" this will mean farewell to Lord St John of Fawley (right), the former Conservative cabinet minister Norman St John-Stevens, who chaired the RFAC and has been on New Labour's hit list since before the general election.

The various film-funding bodies will be brought together into a new British Film Council, which will also oversee the National Lottery money that goes towards film. This is yet another attempt to make the British film industry more of a competitor to Hollywood. Lord Attenborough (right) was heavily involved in the new body's creation.

The Arts Council of England and the Crafts Council will be brought together, which means the Crafts Council is swallowed up, though there are safeguards for its work with craftspeople. The Arts Council received a 15 per cent grant increase yesterday and is due to distribute a chunk of that to the Royal Opera House on Thursday.

The Royal Commission on the Historical Monuments of England is being subsumed into English Heritage to form a single body to look after England's historic buildings. A new strategic body, the Museums, Libraries and Archives Council will be created to replace the existing Museums and Galleries Commission and the Library and Information Commission. A "transformed, more effective, slimmer" tourism body will replace the English Tourist Board.



Museum post signals end of curator power

THE BRITISH Museum will this week advertise for a managing director. The advertisement signals a new approach to running museums in this country which could ultimately mean the end of the scholar director.

Whoever gains the new post will work alongside the museum's director, Dr Robert Anderson. But, crucially, the new managing director could earn more than Dr Anderson and he or she will be in charge of all financial and business matters.

Senior sources say the appointment of a managing director to one of the world's best known museums and Britain's leading tourist attraction has been demanded by Chris Smith, the Culture Secretary, in discussions with the museum's chairman, Graham Greene.

It marks something that many in the museum world have long feared - the separation of responsibility for finance and curatorship.

The desire for business expertise is demonstrated by the fact that the job is not being advertised in arts publications but in *The Economist*. Robert Anderson is on a salary of £21,000. A spokesman for the

BY DAVID LISTER
Arts News Editor

British Museum said that the new managing director's salary would be arranged "by negotiation" but would be in line with Dr Anderson's salary. However, he did not rule out the possibility that it could be more.

There have been particular worries about the British Museum following a report by a former Treasury official in 1996 which revealed that the museum didn't then have a qualified accountant, and urged that its displays be more eye-catching.

Mark Taylor, director of the Museums' Association, the professional body for museums and their staff, said yesterday: "You don't have to be a football observer to note that having two managers at Liverpool didn't work."

"I personally wouldn't rule out people with non-curatorial skills running museums provided they understand the ethos of the museum. But it is very worrying if it means a shift towards a more commercial attitude, away from the unique selling point of the British Museum which is its collections."

DAVID AARONOVITCH
My name is not an old English moniker. I am third-generation scum
IN THE TUESDAY REVIEW PAGE 3

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Getting the message across, again and again and again

THERE ARE few phrases more useful in the House than "Can my right honourable friend confirm?", at least, that is, when they are uttered by a loyal backbencher. If the invitation is made to "the right honourable gentleman" there is at least a faint possibility that something novel is to be confirmed. That the right honourable gentleman was seen leaving the Hot Tottie lap-dancing club last Thursday evening, perhaps, or that his assurances on tax harmonisation are as reliable as an ex-fleet Trabant. But when Gerald Kaufman asks the Prime Minister to rise in confirmation you can be pretty sure that

the question is designed solely to allow Mr Blair to repeat himself. Yesterday he took the opportunity, confirming without obvious anxiety that on the whole it was better for us to engage constructively in European debates rather than emulate the long Conservative history of destructive negativity. This was a fruitful intervention on Mr Kaufman's part since without it the Prime Minister would only have been able to get this central message across 23 times (my figures may not be absolutely precise, you understand, but they're in the right ballpark). Naturally Tory backbenchers help rack up the Prime

Minister's score-rate too, mostly because the rare opportunity to put a Parliamentary question to Mr Blair will never be surrendered simply because it has already been answered in the previous few minutes. Mr Hague gets the first crack at the PM, of course, and employs his own repetitions to do it. Responding to the Prime Minister's statement on the Vienna summit yesterday, he had chosen Mr Blair's consistency as the theme of the day and "saying one thing to one audience in one place and another to an audience in another" as the soundbite of the day. Some of us would have been grateful for a bit more

THE SKETCH



THOMAS
SUTCLIFFE

creative variation from Mr Blair, rather than less. He could usefully have said one thing to one audience

in one place and something completely different to the same audience a bit later. But it was not to be, in the face of a Tory party so aroused by the whiff of European co-operation that it rose as one when the Prime Minister sat down, a Mexican wave of instinctive revision. Award for the most loud backbench contribution, in a hotly contested competition, went to Sir Peter Tapsell, who sought reassurance that discussions of defence policy would not end with a "German finger on the British nuclear trigger". Where other members have a vision of foreign policy Sir Peter has a yellowing Mac car-

toon - in which a crop-haired figure with a pickelhaube helmet and a string of sausages around his neck reaches out a fat Teutonic digit for the hutton marked "The bomb". Mr Hague himself has still not entirely recovered the form he displayed just after the Queen's Speech, and although his performance yesterday went through the motions, shining a bright light on the hope of casting a spooky shadow on the opposite benches ("look children, this one's a rabbit with secret plans for a federal super-state") nothing truly delighted his troops. Even his valedictory witticism gave

off a cracked note. The Prime Minister, he said, should come clean about exactly what he meant rather than "running around Europe giving more false impressions than Rory Bremner". True, Mr Bremner still has a little bit of polishing to do on his Mandelson, but otherwise most of his imitations are enjoyably accurate, which made Mr Hague's final barb sound more like an unprovoked attack on an innocent impressionist than an effective jab at the Prime Minister. Given Mr Hague's recent troubles with his public image I'm not sure this is the right moment to make new enemies.

Lunatics run Tory policy, says Blair

THE PRIME Minister angrily accused William Hague of having lost control over his party's European policy yesterday, claiming "lunatics had taken over the asylum".

Tony Blair, in a Commons statement on the European Council in Vienna, said the Conservative leader's policy was determined by the "head-bangers" who served in his Shadow Cabinet.

Earlier, Mr Hague attacked the Prime Minister's denial that there would be uniform tax rates within the European Union, saying the Prime Minister's "habit of saying one thing to an audience in one place and another to an audience in another place is catching up with him".

Mr Hague agreed there was an "overwhelming case" for duty free sales to be kept, but attacked Mr Blair for "going with the flow" in his discussions with EU colleagues.

"Can you confirm that while you were telling the British media that the rebate was not up for negotiation, you were

EUROPE
BY SARAH SCHAEFER
Political Reporter

busily telling the Austrian media that there would be wide-ranging negotiations in which the rebate would come up for discussion?

"Wouldn't that be a much more effective way to ensure your thoughts are reported accurately than whining about the British press?"

Rather than making pledges on uniform tax rates, Mr Blair should have insisted on an end to tax harmonisation, the Tory leader said, adding: "Wouldn't arguing against these real threats have demonstrated more backbone than arguing against imaginary threats?"

Replying, Mr Blair said it was "perfectly sensible" to try to reform some European tax practices as they were "harmful to this country".

"If the Tories were in power today, we would not have an ally anywhere, no influence, no authority, no ability to get our own way... under your leadership

the lunatics have taken over the asylum. You're not running your party. The policy of your party is determined by the head-bangers who have surrounded yourself with in the Shadow Cabinet."

"This country's national interest lies in being part of Europe. That's the way to win in Europe and that is what this Government shall do," he added.

Menzies Campbell, Liberal Democrat foreign affairs spokesman, welcomed Mr Blair's "apparent recent conversion to the view that government policy in Europe is determined by what is best for Britain, and not what is least offensive to certain newspaper proprietors".

Gerald Kaufman, the former Labour minister and MP for Manchester Gorton, said "the best way to gain concessions, such as on duty free or the beef ban" was not by "the tantrums and boycotts in which the other side indulged when in Government, but by co-operation and winning over friends".



The Conservative MP Virginia Bottomley MP (left) who was Secretary of State for Health between 1992 and 1995, after giving evidence to the BSE inquiry, in London yesterday

Labour 'out to shackle mayor'

LOCAL GOVERNMENT
BY PAUL WAUGH
AND SARAH SCHAEFER

MINISTERS were accused yesterday of inserting "Livingstone clauses" into the Greater London Authority Bill to ensure that the capital's mayor kept in line with government policy.

Tories and Liberal Democrats said parts of the Bill would give sweeping powers to John Prescott, Deputy Prime Minister and Secretary of State for the Environment.

More than 250 clauses in the proposed legislation were designed to prevent an independent-minded mayor such as Ken Livingstone from carrying out radical policies, they said.

Simon Hughes, the Liberal Democrat MP who used the Commons debate to declare that he would stand for mayor, said the Bill would give Mr Prescott "Henry VIII"-style control over the new Greater London Authority (GLA).

Fears that Mr Livingstone, MP for Brent East, might seek to turn the mayoralty into a new power base had led to the creation of the clauses designed severely to restrict his remit, said Mr Hughes.

One key section would allow the Environment Secretary to take from the mayor the proceeds of proposed "congestion charges" on London's roads.

Although the Government said that it would protect such proceeds for the first 10 years of the GLA, Mr Hughes pointed out that the Bill gave it the power to rescind the promise.

Other "Livingstone clauses" meant that the mayor would have to devise strategies in line with national policies and that the Environment Secretary could severely restrict mayoral spending.

Opening debate on the second reading of the Bill, Mr Prescott said the GLA would bring back the first city-wide administration since abolition of the Greater London Council in 1986 - providing badly needed accountability and leadership.

He said: "It will strip away the shadowy committees, the burgeoning bureaucracies and quangos created by our predecessors and give Londoners back their voice."

The new authority would have "tremendous power and responsibility", and its relationship with the Environment Secretary would resemble the present relationship between central and local government.

The GLA would control a budget worth several billion pounds, have strategic powers over transport and economic development and would oversee a new, democratically accountable police authority.

He added: "The next stage of devolution, if you like, might and would hopefully be towards regional government."

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Jenkins fails in bid to head reform of Lords

TONY BLAIR is set to reject a late bid by Lord Jenkins, the former SDP leader, to chair the Royal Commission on the long-term reform of the House of Lords.

Lord Jenkins, who was appointed by Mr Blair to head the review on electoral reform, has only recently delivered his report but offered his services for the review of Lords reform.

The Prime Minister has taken advice from Lord Jenkins since coming to office, but has decided to appoint Lord Butler, the former head of the Cabinet Office under successive prime ministers, as a non-partisan chairman who would be acceptable to the Tories.

Lord Mackay, deputy Conservative leader in the Lords, yesterday said Lord Jenkins would not have been approved by the Tories. The Commission will consider options for long-term reform of the Lords, including direct elections. This idea was supported last night in a report by the Tory Bow Group calling for the Upper House to be made independent of the Government.

It came as William Hague, the Conservative Party leader, laid plans to force the Govern-

HOUSE OF LORDS
BY COLIN BROWN
Chief Political Correspondent

ment into a fresh constitutional clash with the House of Lords. The Conservative leader has ordered Tory peers to vote down the Government's Bill to allow the European elections to be fought on a "closed list" system of candidates.

Mr Blair will have to resort to the Parliament Act for the first time to override the Lords' vote and force the Bill through in time for the elections.

Speeding up the passage of the European Parliamentary Elections Bill will allow time for three new Government Bills, listed in order of priority by Downing Street yesterday: John Prescott's Bill to introduce a rail regulator; the Ministry of Agriculture Bill to introduce a Food Standards Agency; and a Bill to crack down on sleaze in local government by allowing directly elected mayors.

Tory peers last night claimed the high moral ground over a system to which even some Labour peers, MPs and MEPs are opposed, on the grounds that it gives party leaders, not voters, the final choice

over which candidates to send to the European Parliament.

Lord Strathclyde, the Tory leader in the Lords, said rejecting the European Parliamentary Elections Bill showed the Tories would not be "soft" on any legislation, in spite of the recent controversy over deals to allow 91 hereditary peers to survive until the Royal Commission has reported.

"We have no desire to co-operate on the Bill. We think it is a bad Bill. It does bear an undemocratic flavour which wrecks the traditional right of the electorate to vote for a candidate," said Lord Strathclyde.

Lord Cranborne, who was sacked by Mr Hague for doing a deal behind his back with Mr Blair about long-term reform of the Lords, is not expected to vote tonight. The decision to vote the Bill down was taken yesterday at a meeting between Lord Strathclyde and Mr Hague.

Tory peers who attacked Mr Hague for sacking Lord Cranborne were firmly behind his tactics on the Bill. Lord St John of Fawsley said: "I do approve. This is an issue which goes to the heart of the constitution."

THE HOUSE Opera House cash criteria

THE ROYAL Opera House, Covent Garden, must have "proper" management standards as a condition for more public money, Alan Howard, the Arts minister said.

He gave his assurance after Michael Jack, the Tory MP for Fylde, said that the December's edition of *Equity* magazine had exposed "a tale of financial incompetence" at the ROH, adding: "How can there be now discussion of more public funding being made available for this sorry institution?"



No switch-on date for digital

CHRIS SMITH, the Secretary of State for Culture, ruled out setting a target date for switching Britain's free television channels to digital transmission until it was sure access would be as widely available and affordable. He said: "Poor people should not be forced to pay too much for the necessary equipment."

Dome alone

THE NEW Millennium Experience Company, responsible for raising sponsorship for the Millennium Dome, is no longer using the services of the International Management Group, an independent consultancy, Peter Mandelson disclosed.

'Keegan' quip

SPORTS MINISTER Tony Banks drew loud laughter in the Commons after he dubbed bouffant-haired Tory Culture spokesman Peter Ainsworth a "Kevin Keegan lookalike." The reference to the footballer came during Question Time exchanges over the future of school sport.

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

Today's Business

COMMONS Health questions. Greater London Authority Bill, second reading. Debate on European Common Fisheries Policy. Short debate on alternative fuels for freight vehicles, LORDS: Youth Justice and Criminal Evidence Bill, second reading. European Parliamentary Elections Bill, second reading.

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Banker loses his battle to stay

A NIGERIAN man who built a successful business after being abandoned in Britain as a boy lost his latest deportation battle yesterday and now faces being sent back to Africa.

The Court of Appeal rejected an application from Ben James, 29, to have his case referred to the House of Lords. He is now planning a last-ditch plea to Jack Straw, the Home Secretary, to show compassion and not deport him. He may also take his case to the European Court.

Mr James, a commodities broker from East Dulwich, London, was brought to Britain at the age of 14 by his father - who feared political persecution - and was enrolled in a private school. During his time there he lost contact with his parents.

Mr James, who has received backing from MP and Health Minister Tessa Jowell, said after yesterday's ruling: "I'm extremely upset, depressed and angry. I don't know where the future lies. I can't go back to where I came from. I don't know the place. I have no home or friends there or enough money to start again. I don't even speak the language."

BY JASON BENNETT
Crime Correspondent

Britain is my home. I have been told I could be arrested at any moment now and put on a plane to Nigeria.

Mr James fell foul of the immigration authorities by failing to apply for an extension when his original permission to live here as a student ran out in 1986. His case came to light when he approached the Home Office in 1991, trying to put things right. A seven-year legal battle followed.

He said: "What I am hoping for is that the Home Secretary will show a little compassion at the end of the day."

"One wonders what the definition of compassion is. I didn't choose to be left here as a child, nor have I committed any crime. But I've paid my taxes and employed other people in my business. What more could you ask?"

Yesterday, Lord Justice Roch and Lord Justice Waller rejected his application for leave to seek judicial review. They upheld a High Court ruling that he did not have an arguable case. Mr James wanted



Ben James, who faces deportation after yesterday's ruling. 'I'm hoping the Home Secretary will show a little compassion,' he said. Tom Craig

a review of the Home Secretary's decision not to grant him indefinite leave to remain here and to confirm a deportation order signed in 1994.

Dismissing the application, Lord Justice Roch said the Home Secretary had been en-

titled to decide last July that the 15 years Mr James had spent building his life in Britain did not outweigh the need for "effective immigration control".

Lord Justice Roch said Mr James had made no attempt to regularise his position until

April 1991 and was therefore not entitled to rely on long-term residence as a valid ground for being allowed to stay.

Outside court, Mr James's solicitor, Tiki Emezie, said further representations would now be made to the Home Of-

fice on compassionate grounds.

An application could also be made to the European Court of Human Rights, based on the argument that it would be "inhumane and degrading treatment" to deport Mr James. Despite an announcement

by the Government in July that all asylum-seekers who arrived in Britain before 1993 would be given leave to stay, ministers have backed moves to deport Mr James. They argue that his case was being examined before the switch in policy.

Lalique glasses doctored by fakers

BY CATHY COMERFORD

A CASE of mistaken identity in which a buyer paid £500,000 for what turned out to be doctored art deco glass could have repercussions for collectors.

The value of supposedly rare purple Lalique glass objects has already fallen and is likely to drop further after a case in the High Court yesterday.

Motor racing tycoon Mansour Ojeh was awarded £845,000 in damages after the court decided that his collection of purple Lalique car mascots had been artificially coloured long after they were made.

Mr Ojeh who part owns the McLaren Formula One racing team had paid £60,000 each for the 17 deep purple sculptures made by René Lalique. He had also given his own clear crystal glass Lalique mascots in exchange. The court heard how he had been told that the colour made the sculptures more rare and added to their value.

But Mr Justice Buckley ruled yesterday that the colour had been added by a radiation process, possibly in the last 20 years, although he acknowledged the gallery owner who sold them would not have known this. His judgment was supported by evidence from art experts who said Lalique would never have coloured the glass artefacts as it would have been "too vulgar".

The clear glass car mascots, which now sell for about £24,000, were made in France during the Twenties and Thirties. Judge Buckley said: "The dark purple colour does indeed destroy the sense of grace, movement and speed in some of these pieces. Based on all the material before me, I cannot envisage René Lalique using this colour to enhance or even as a variation for his mascots."

The case was brought against gallery owner, Mark Waller, a Lalique glass expert, and his company Galerie Moderne, of Belgrave, London, for negligence and breach of contract. The judge found he had not been negligent as he was not expected to be an expert in radiation colouring. However, by giving his personal assurance of authenticity had been in breach of contract.

After the hearing in London, Michael Sears, solicitor for Mr Ojeh, said the purple mascots had been fetching around £121,000 before the irradiation process was discovered. They now barely reach £8,000 a piece.

Mr Waller was ordered to pay £360,402 damages and Galerie Moderne £485,347 damages. They were also ordered to pay Mr Ojeh's costs of £150,000.

Genetic remedy found to reverse muscle wastage

SCIENTISTS HAVE found a way of permanently preventing muscle wastage in old age in a development that could also be used to boost athletic performance in the young.

The researchers believe the revolutionary treatment could become the basis of a possible cure for the thousands of children with muscular dystrophy, in which an inherited fault causes muscles to degenerate. But they have also warned that the breakthrough, which may permanently increase the size of a person's muscles, could be wrongly applied for cosmetic improvement or to boost athletic performance.

Experiments on laboratory mice showed that infecting the

BY STEVE CONNOR
Science Editor

animals with a genetically engineered virus increased their muscle strength by 15 per cent in young individuals and by up to 27 per cent in older mice - effectively restoring them to their youthful strength.

The virus, which was rendered harmless before extra genes for a muscle-building factor were added, could one day be used on humans who, like mice, also become feeble with age as a result of muscle loss. "Our results show that it may be possible to preserve muscle size and strength in old age using this approach," said Lee Sweeney, Professor of

Physiology at the University of Pennsylvania and the head of the research team.

"We're now looking to see whether the technique might also be used to increase muscle strength in diseases such as muscular dystrophy."

Details of the research, which will be published later this month in the *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences*, were released yesterday at the American Society for Cell Biology in San Francisco.

Professor Kay Davies, of Oxford University, an authority on the genetics of muscular dystrophy, said: "This type of therapy is likely to be generally applicable to man and is a very promising development."

This approach may also be used to improve muscle strength in muscular dystrophy patients which would greatly improve their quality of life."

The virus used in the experiments, called adeno-associated virus, was engineered with a gene for a substance known to trigger the growth of muscle cells during the repair of damaged tissue. Injecting the muscles of older mice with the virus caused it to infect the animals' cells, introducing the growth-factor gene as it spread within the tissues.

Professor Sweeney said that a number of ethical considerations will have to be addressed before the technique could be used on humans.

Payouts for staff in homes-for-votes row

A FORMER Tory MP and other leading figures implicated in the Westminster council "homes for votes" scandal are set to receive more than £700,000 to cover their legal bills.

Ministers were reported to be "furious" yesterday when it emerged that three councillors and four council officers linked to the affair would be compensated by the Tory authority. The seven men were criticised by the district auditor for their involvement in the scandal, but were cleared of any wilful misconduct.

Under a report to go before a private meeting of Westminster council tomorrow night, they could receive up to £165,000 each. Tesco heiress

BY PAUL WAUGH
Political Correspondent

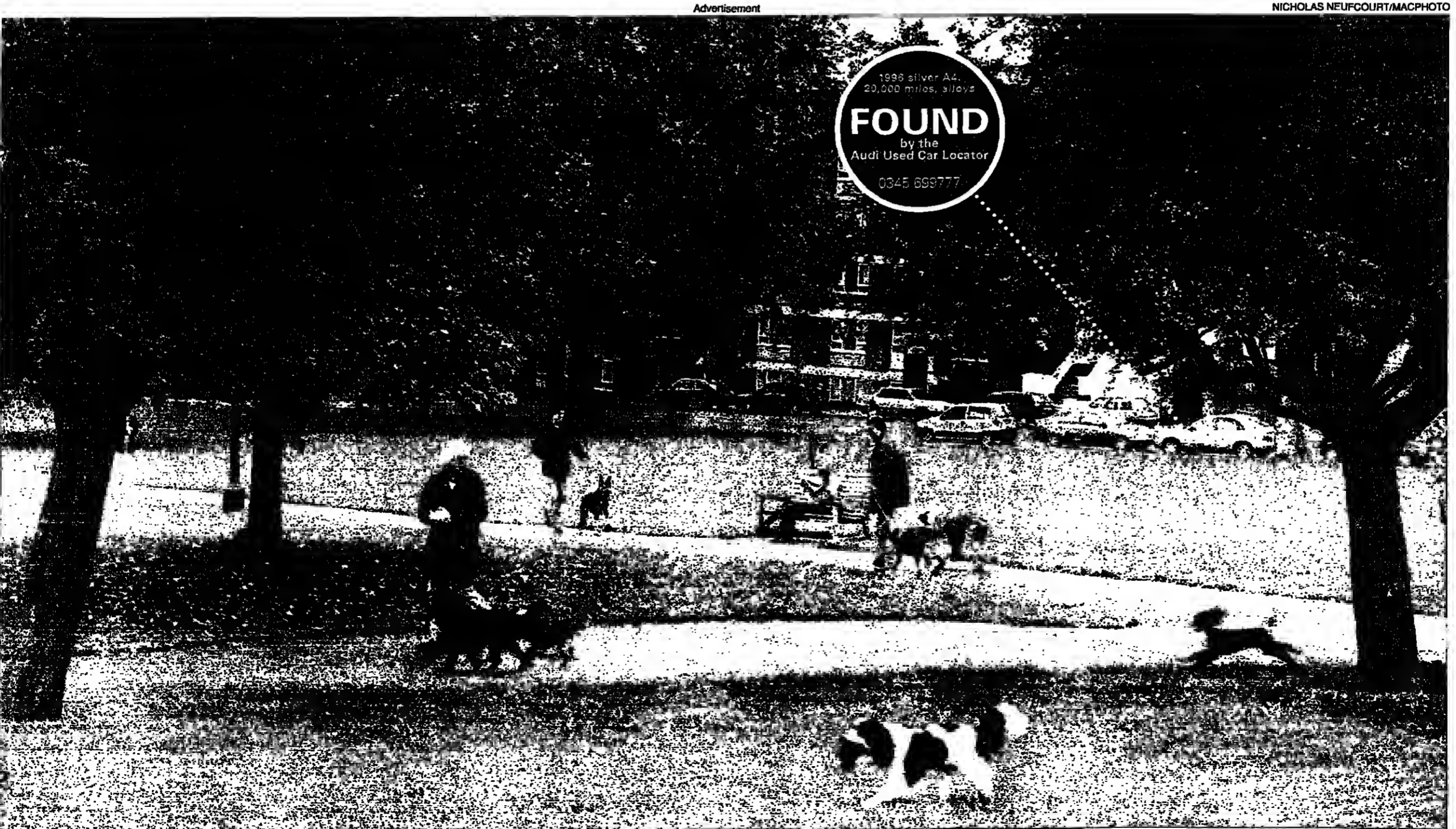
Dame Shirley Porter could also be paid up to £1m from public funds if she wins her appeal against a £27m surcharge imposed on her.

The council's Labour opposition yesterday called on the district auditor to investigate the plan to reimburse former Tory councillors Barry Legg, Alex Segal and Miles Young and the officers.

The report recommends that Mr Legg, who became Tory MP for Milton Keynes before losing his seat at the last general election, should receive £165,000. Mr Young, a former leader of the council, and

Mr Segal should get £80,000. The former managing director of the council, Bill Phillips, will be offered £101,000. A staff association that represented three other officers will be offered £350,000.

A seven-year inquiry found Westminster's former leader, Dame Shirley Porter and her former deputy, David Weeks, guilty of operating an illegal policy of selling flats in marginal wards to potential Tory voters instead of housing the homeless. However, the other councillors and officers were cleared of the most serious charges and now believe that they are entitled to compensation. Ministers turned down similar requests from two councillors this year.



WPC Katie Willis (seated, on bench) on the lookout for stolen dogs in a south London park yesterday. There has been a spate of canine thefts in the area recently.

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NICHOLAS NEUFCHÂTEAU/MACPHOTO



Another defector, the East German soldier Hans Conrad Schumann, was immortalised in this 1961 photograph, leaping over the barbed-wire barricade that was to become the Berlin Wall to join his family in the West. AP

Wall hero is now on trial in Berlin

IN THE simplistic mythology of the Cold War, East German border guards were the villains and those battling against them heroes. But yesterday this world was turned upside down when one such hero found himself in the dock for the murder of a guard shot in cold blood 36 years ago.

Rudolf Müller, a baker who in 1962 had brought his family to the West through a tunnel he dug under the wall, is helmed to stand trial for a crime which until now was considered legitimate. It is another twist in this moral maze in which hundreds of East Germans have been convicted for carrying out orders to shoot refugees, whilst the Politburo members issuing those orders have mostly wriggled out of jail.

Mr Müller's case is all the more glaring because it illustrates how Cold Warriors on

BY IMRE KARACS
in Bonn

both sides of the barbed wire manipulated people and events to suit their propaganda purposes. Mr Müller was allowed to dig his tunnel from the West Berlin basement of the rabidly anti-communist newspaper publishers Axel-Springer Verlag. Then, upon his triumphant return to West Berlin, the authorities adjusted the story of his escape, blaming the death of a 20-year-old East German private, named Reinhold Huhn, on a fellow guard.

According to the statement he gave to West Berlin police after his escape, Mr Müller crossed to the East on 18 June 1962 to bring his family to the building near Checkpoint Charlie where his tunnel led. They were stopped by the guard, who was armed with a machine gun. While the soldier was



Müller: Murder charge

searching his bag, Mr Müller claims to have knocked him down. Another border guard then allegedly opened fire, hitting his colleague accidentally. The East German version was quite different. They claimed Mr Müller reached into his breast pocket pretending to be fumbling for documents, pulled out a gun and

shot the guard at point-blank range without warning.

Pie Huhn was proclaimed a true-grit Communist hero, a street was named after him, and a plaque erected. Mr Müller meanwhile, was feted by the West for his daring raid.

Now, nine years after the fall of the wall, Berlin prosecutors believe the enemy might have had a point. Witnesses have come forward describing the event as a simple case of shoot-and-run, with Mr Müller, now 67, cast as the man who fired the fatal bullet. In the light of the new investigation, Mr Müller's first press conference in the West, before the final, radically different version, is construed as a confession. Asked by reporters how many times he had pulled the trigger, he had replied: "Once. The man fell down immediately."

The trial is expected to continue until late February.

100 words of the century – but no 'Nazis'

WHILE OTHER countries are still struggling to erect a fitting archway to the new century, Germany has completed its millennium project a year ahead of schedule. A jury of seven eminent persons from the German-speaking world yesterday unveiled their definitive list of the 100 most important words of the last 100 years.

From Aids to Wolkenkratzer – "skyscraper" – modernity is distilled on to a small sheet. Between now and 31 January 1999, more eminent German-speakers will pen riveting essays on each word, which will all be broadcast during the coming 12 months, and the printed versions will be bound in a nice leather volume. Beat that, Millennium Dome.

Well, maybe it can. One eminent female person in Berlin has already spotted one blatant omission – the list has "peace movement" but not "women's movement". Historians are also feeling a little let down.

Germans have been living in interesting times, so competition to get into the top 100 was fierce. "Führer" made it, as well as "Holocaust", "concentration camp", "deportation"

BY IMRE KARACS
in Bonn

and "genocide". The Nazis did not merit an entry, even though the foreign concept of "fascism" got in. And whereas the "Third World" was deemed worthy of inclusion, "Third Reich" was not.

As befitting a century of wars, the list is weighed down by many military terms. "Panzer", "Molotov cocktail" and "U-boat" are the epoch-making words. "Luftkrieg" – aerial warfare – is there, but strangely, "Blitzkrieg" is not.

From the Anglo-Saxon world the German language acquired several treasures, including "design", "comics", "jeans" and "sex". From contemporary politics, it has gained almost nothing except "reunification". From industry, "Volkswagen" made it as the only trade-mark.

"Currency reform", the creation of the mighty Deutschmark 50 years ago, obviously had a deep enough impact to be included in the gallery of important words. But "monetary union", due to take place in two weeks' time, will have to fight its way into the top 100 in the coming century.

Anwar's indignity of soiled bedding

IN THE LATEST bizarre development in the trial of Anwar Ibrahim, prosecutors will today exhibit a semen-stained mattress upon which the Malaysian opposition leader allegedly conducted an adulterous affair.

A senior officer from the Malaysian Criminal Investigation Department testified yesterday that a mattress and pillow had been removed from an apartment complex in Kuala Lumpur where Mr Anwar, then the country's deputy prime minister, is accused of having had sex with the wife of his former private secretary.

He has been charged with abusing his power as a minister to suppress allegations of adultery, as well as five counts of sodomy.

"On the mattress I found several patches believed to be seminal fluid," Musa Hassan, deputy director of the CID, told the court, to sniggers from the public gallery. He said laboratory tests were being conducted to determine the origins of the semen, though the results were not revealed yesterday.

Allegations about Mr Anwar's affair with his secretary's wife were first made public over the summer in a book entitled *Fifty Reasons Why Anwar Cannot Become Prime Minister*.

BY RICHARD LLOYD PARRY

The book's author, who is himself being prosecuted for spreading "false news", claimed a daughter born to the woman was fathered by Anwar. But an earlier set of DNA tests appeared to have disproved that claim.

Ever since being sacked by Prime Minister, Mahathir Mohamad, on grounds of immorality, Mr Anwar has insisted that he is the victim of a political conspiracy.

Early on – in an attempt to prove Mr Anwar abused his power, the head of Malaysia's special branch told the court that police intimidate witnesses for political reasons.

Last week, the court heard lurid testimony from Mr Anwar's former chauffeur who described his employer's "animal" lust during their homosexual trysts; later, he apparently admitted that they never took place.

One of Mr Anwar's defence lawyers narrowly avoided going to jail, after the judge, Augustine Paul, found him guilty of contempt of court. Judge Paul made a similar warning yesterday after the chief defence lawyer, Christopher Fernando, alleged "a systematic campaign" against his client.

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HAMISH MCRAE

A bright six-year-old on a computer can find out as much as the average MP

IN THE TUESDAY REVIEW PAGE 5



An honour guard salutes China's national flag as he practises drills involving Beijing's daily ritual of raising and lowering the flag
Natalie Behring/Reuters

China grooms Hu, the next emperor

THE REST of the world will this week get its first real chance to see China's new emperor-in-waiting.

Hu Jintao, the man unofficially anointed to succeed President Jiang Zemin early next century, is scheduled to appear in his first significant diplomatic role when he represents China on Wednesday in informal talks with the Association of South-east Asian Countries (Asean) in Hanoi.

Who Hu? He is likely to be most people's response. Here is the man who is ear-marked to become the leader of the world's largest country, yet his name is virtually unknown outside China except, infamously, among Tibet-watchers.

He was the region's party secretary when, in March 1989, anti-Chinese demonstrations were violently crushed in Lhasa. Even within his own country Mr Hu is a politician in need of an image, though the

BY TERESA POOLE
in Peking

official biography tries hard to cast him as man in contact with the younger generation. "When he worked in the Communist Youth League Central Committee, he occasionally danced solo at parties," it reveals.

Given China's opaque political system, all that is clear is that Mr Hu is now the heir apparent. He was already the youngest member of the politburo's standing committee when, earlier this year, he was appointed vice-president.

The Asean meeting has been chosen as the springboard for a more high-profile role for Mr Hu on the world stage, part of the process of grooming him to take over from Mr Jiang as party chief in 2002, at the 15th Chinese Communist Party Congress.

As such he is designated to become the "core of the fourth



Hu Jintao: Jiang Zemin's 56-year-old heir AP

generation leadership". But what sort of a man is Mr Hu? Young, for sure, having reached his current position at the age of 56, long before many leaders have left the middle-ranks.

Professor David Shambaugh, at George Washington University, said little was known about what Mr Hu represented. "He has not had anything to do with the economy, he has not had anything to do with military affairs, he has not had anything to do with foreign policy. They are now trying, in making him vice-president, to get him to interact with foreigners more," he said.

Trained as an engineer, Mr Hu rose to prominence as head of the party's Youth League, and at 42 became the youngest provincial party secretary in the southern region of Guizhou. From 1988-92, he held the top party post in Tibet, though he spent little time there because he reportedly could not cope with the altitude. Lhasa stands at 16,500ft above sea level. In 1992, he was catapulted on

to the politburo standing committee, party in recognition of his hardline tactics in Tibet.

According to the official biography, Mr Hu once said that "a good leader should be capable of taking resolute action at critical moments".

So far, Mr Hu has kept his political thoughts to himself, assiduously backing Mr Jiang's position in posts as president of the Party School and Party Central Committee.

In other words, Mr Hu is a classic Communist Party apparatchik, with no discernible patriarchal qualities.

Gerry Segal, a China expert at the International Institute for Strategic Studies, describes Mr Hu as a "swing voter" at a time when the entire Chinese leadership remains "dazed by the bonfire of the certainties that is ravaging East Asia".

The fact that Mr Jiang is following in the mould of Mao Tse-tung and Deng Xiaoping in trying to anoint his own successor shows a certain lack of vision about China's political culture. "To that extent, Hu is the natural successor to Jiang, but also a natural reason to worry about China's future," said Mr Segal.

Of course, heirs apparent in China know they have to watch their backs. Two of Deng Xiaoping's chosen successors, Hu Yaobang and Zhao Ziyang, fell by the wayside when it became politically desirable for their mentor to abandon them.

The ever-cautious Mr Hu must know that four years as an emperor-in-waiting is a long time in Chinese politics.

Christmas snacks cost peanuts at Sainsbury's.

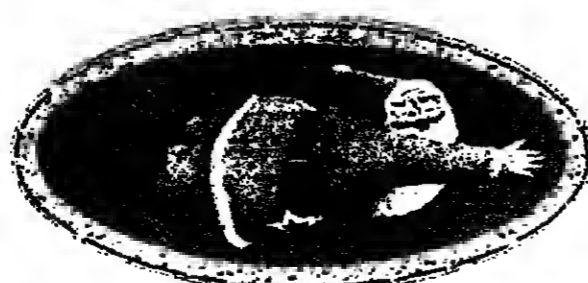


Pringles 170g/200g £1.29
3 for the price of 2

Twiglets/Cheeselets caddies £1.75
3 for the price of 2

KP nut pot range from £1.79
Special Christmas purchase

Happy Christmas



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Hard times make hard men humble

STREET LIFE

SAMOTECHNY LANE, MOSCOW

"TELEPHONE! IT'S for you, some guy called Dima." Costya, my husband, picked up the receiver and I heard him say to this Dima: "Look, I thought we had agreed you were going to leave me in peace for a few months."

Dima, I discovered, is the young sidekick of Uncle Boris, the mafia godfather who keeps Costya's rock and fashion business under his wing. I have known for some time that Costya, like every other Russian small businessman, has a *krysha* or roof of protection. That is how the system works here. Only recently, however, have I learnt more of the workings of Russia's ubiquitous protection rackets.

"OK, I'll see you on the Arbat," Costya told Dima on this occasion. When he returned from the meeting, I gleaned a fascinating little detail about the mafia's current affairs.

Since the economic crash, Russian businesses have not been able to afford to pay dues to the godfathers who, in the absence of effective police, offer a kind of security, which is also, of course, an illegal tax. In the autumn, Uncle Boris agreed with Costya that he could have a "tax holiday" until his business began to make profits again. However, it seems that Uncle Boris is now hard up himself.

"Dima took me to a cafe," said Costya. "He does not usually do that. He usually comes to my office to pick up the money for Uncle Boris. He was trying to be nice to me." Dima did not demand cash. Instead, he pleaded and told Costya a sob story. One of the "lads" had been injured in a shoot-out while protecting a business, he said. The gangster's treatment in hospital was costing \$200 (£120) a day. "Donations would be gratefully accepted."

"I refused," said Costya. "I'm broke. I told him: 'Listen mate, you can't get blood out of a stone.' Dima had no choice but to take this message back to Uncle Boris."

In the West, you may be bothered by unwanted insurance salesmen. In Russia, as soon as you have a visible shop window, you can expect a visit from the protection

racketeers, hinting darkly at the "risks" that you will be running if you do not accept their services.

The mafia gangs divide along ethnic lines but contrary to what Russian nationalists say - that only the nasty, swarthy Caucasians belong to these bands - there are plenty of ethnic Russian groups as well. A court in Geneva last week tried to prove that a certain Sergei Mikhailov led the mafia in the Sointsevskaia district of Moscow and laundered money in Switzerland but it was forced to acquit him for lack of evidence.

Costya, being a small fish, has a relatively minor godfather. Uncle Boris is an old criminal from a provincial Russian city. He is a "thief in law" or figure of authority among ex-labour camp inmates and enforces a moral code, which boils down to the tribal idea: "If you hurt one of mine, I hurt you".

At first, he charged Costya a modest \$300 per month for his insurance cover. But after Costya was held up at gunpoint by rival protection racketeers and Uncle Boris's intervention was required, the price went up to \$1,200.

"It was as if I had used up my no-claims bonus," joked Costya.

Every month, Dima, who wears a smart wool coat and heavy gold jewellery, would make the collection. About 150 other small businesses were also liable for this "tax", so you can work out how much profit Uncle Boris was making before the economic crisis.

He never made any overt threats. He did not need to. Costya knew that if he tried to manage without protection, some problem would inevitably arise, a bomb, say, in his storehouse, and he would have to admit that Uncle Boris was indispensable.

"It's blackmail, it's a burden," said Costya. "But what can I do?"

Indeed, as long as the mafia is the real power in the land, usurping the protecting and revenue-raising functions of the state, little people will be helpless. Helpless, but not necessarily mute. Which is why I have spoken about this.

HELEN WOMACK

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BUSINESS

BRIEFING

Tarmac and Al talks collapse

TALKS BETWEEN Tarmac and Aggregate Industries over a £1.8bn merger of their building materials operations collapsed at the last minute last night amid a bitter row between the companies' chief executives.

The negotiations over a no-premium merger to form the UK's largest construction group are understood to have foundered over the role of Sir Neville Simms, chief executive of Tarmac and chairman-designate of the combined group. Al's chief executive, Peter Tom, is thought to have rejected Sir Neville's appointment as chairman of a key committee charged with overseeing the integration of the two groups. Sources close to Tarmac said Mr Tom's change of mind was an attempt to take over the company without paying a premium.

Sears braced for bid from Green

SEARS, the struggling retail group, is braced for a takeover bid as speculation mounts that Philip Green, the retail entrepreneur, is preparing a £460m move this week.

Sir Bob Reid, the Sears chairman (pictured), said yesterday: "I think he'll probably have a go this week but we'll have to wait and see. It would be surprising if, after all this talk, there isn't something there. I'm expecting something during the course of the next few days."

Sears confirmed that its advisers have been in touch with the Takeover Panel about pushing Mr Green to clarify his intentions. Sir Bob said he was concerned about being dragged into a negotiating process where the actual offer price bore little resemblance to the original headline figure. "I don't want someone coming in with a top-line figure, then after the due diligence process, making an offer of 25 per cent less."

Sears shares fell 14.5p to 267p yesterday as the group's largest shareholder, Phillips & Drew, reduced its holding in 23.85 per cent.

Antrim video plant under threat

UP TO 1,000 jobs in a video recorder factory in Northern Ireland are at risk, the South Korean group Daewoo warned. Daewoo said its plant in Antrim was threatened by economic restructuring by South Korea that might force Daewoo to sell its electronics interests to Samsung. This would almost certainly lead to the plant's closure as most of Samsung's electronics business was in Eastern Europe.

Shell to cut \$2.5bn in costs and at least 4,000 more jobs

BY MICHAEL HARRISON

SHELL, the Anglo-Dutch oil giant, yesterday pledged to cut costs by \$2.5bn, shed nearly half of its chemicals business and examined the possibility of merging as part of a radical restructuring plan designed to restore its battered image with investors.

Mark Moody-Stuart, Shell's chairman, said the overhaul would result in an exceptional charge of \$4.5bn in the fourth quarter and at least another 4,000 job losses in addition to the 4,000 redundancies already announced from its worldwide workforce of 105,000.

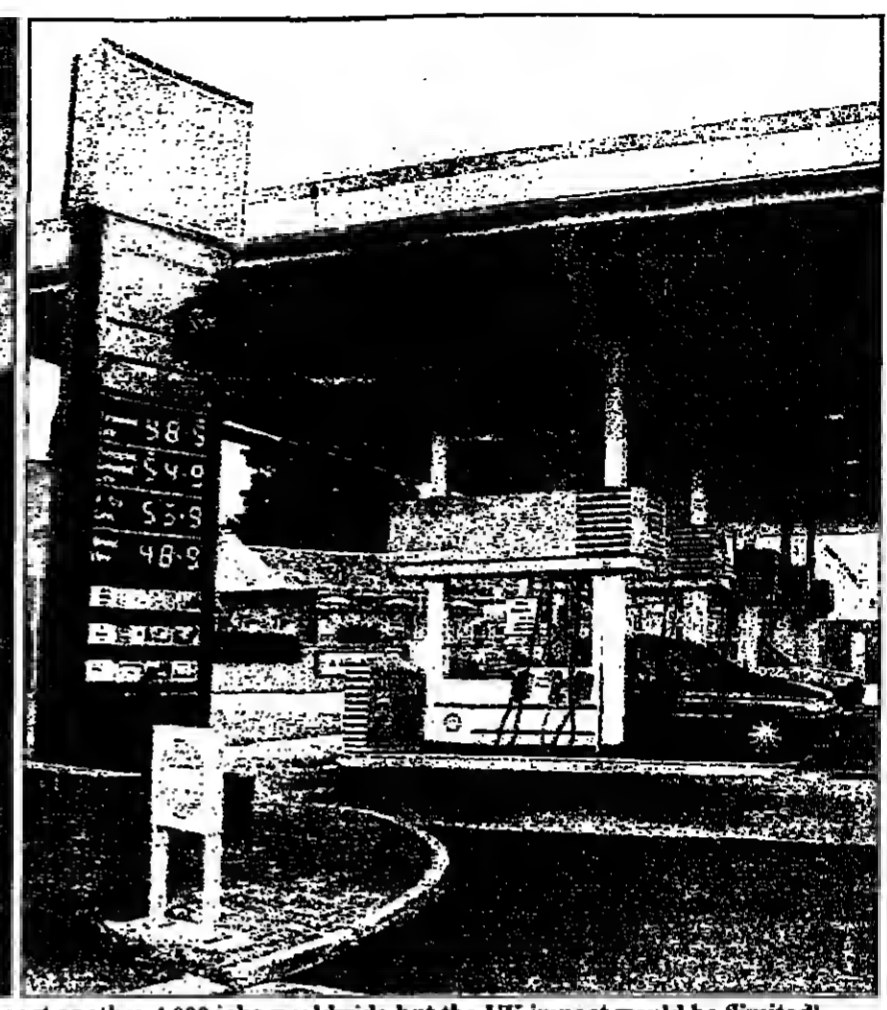
But he said the impact on its UK workforce would be "limited" since it had already borne much of the pain with the 2,000 job losses and closure of its Shell Mex House headquarters earlier this year.

Details of the group's five-year revival plan were spelt out to analysts and fund managers in London and New York during a 90-minute conference that began with a blunt admission from Mr Moody-Stuart that Shell's reputation with investors was "on the line".

The response from the markets was muted with one analyst declaring that Shell still had "an acute credibility gap" and the shares drifting slightly lower.



Mark Moody-Stuart, Shell's chairman, said the revamp would cost another 4,000 jobs worldwide but the UK impact would be 'limited'



OIL INDUSTRY UNDER PRESSURE

Brent Oil		Top ten global oil companies		Shell	
US\$ per barrel		measured by 1997 revenues		share price, pence	
17	18	Exxon Corporation	\$182.4bn	480	
16	17	Royal Dutch Shell	\$128.1bn	460	
15	16	BP America	\$104bn	440	
14	15	Total	\$46.6bn	420	
13	14	Amoco	\$46.2bn	400	
12	13	Elf Aquitaine	\$43.6bn	380	
11	12	Eni	\$37bn	360	
10	11	Chevron Corporation	\$36.4bn	340	
9	10	Petroleros de Venezuela SA	\$34.8bn	320	
		Conoco	\$26.2bn	300	
		Castrol	\$24.1bn	280	

its merger with Amoco will yield.

As part of the efficiency plan Shell has set itself the goal of reducing costs in its exploration and production division from \$3.3 a barrel at present to \$2.5 a barrel by 2001.

Mr Moody-Stuart said that Shell employed \$25bn more capital than Exxon and yet only earned the same return. That was why cost savings and more efficient use of capital was essential.

Shell refused to be drawn on how much the disposal of its chemical businesses would raise but Mr Moody-Stuart conceded that it was a "lousy" time to sell them because the industry was at the bottom of the cycle. The businesses being disposed of employed capital of about \$5bn.

The target for return on capital set by Shell means it will need to achieve an improvement of 50 per cent on current levels. The highest targets - of 15 per cent - have been set for exploration, production and chemicals.

The market's verdict on the restructuring plan unveiled by Shell was guarded. Shares in Shell Transport and Trading, the London-listed arm of the group, closed 2.5p lower at 351.5p.

John Toalster of SG Securities, said: "Basically they are downsizing the company and they still have an acute credibility gap. Given the cost reduction and the chemicals sale, they are essentially putting the company under a microscope."

"But a 14 per cent return on \$14 oil is better than Exxon achieves. A question mark remains: Is it achievable? We are hopeful but don't hold your breath."

Another analyst who declined to be named said: "It's not ideal but it is a better picture than it has been in the past."

STOCK MARKETS

FTSE 100	DOW JONES	NIKKEI
5534.50	9070.00	14200.00
5534.50	9070.00	14200.00
5534.50	9070.00	14200.00
5534.50	9070.00	14200.00
5534.50	9070.00	14200.00
5534.50	9070.00	14200.00
5534.50	9070.00	14200.00
5534.50	9070.00	14200.00
5534.50	9070.00	14200.00
5534.50	9070.00	14200.00

INTEREST RATES

SHORT STERLING	UK 10 YEAR GILT	US LONG BOND
6.50	6.50	6.50
6.50	6.50	6.50
6.50	6.50	6.50
6.50	6.50	6.50
6.50	6.50	6.50
6.50	6.50	6.50
6.50	6.50	6.50
6.50	6.50	6.50
6.50	6.50	6.50
6.50	6.50	6.50

CURRENCIES

\$/£	DM/£	¥/£
1.60	1.60	1.60
1.60	1.60	1.60
1.60	1.60	1.60
1.60	1.60	1.60
1.60	1.60	1.60
1.60	1.60	1.60
1.60	1.60	1.60
1.60	1.60	1.60
1.60	1.60	1.60
1.60	1.60	1.60

OTHER INDICATORS

Comd	Chg	Yr Ago	Index	Chg	Yr Ago
Brent Oil (\$)	9.48	0.30	16.77		
Gold (\$)	281.65	0.80			
Silver (\$)	4.79	-0.05	5.78		

TOURIST RATES

Australia (\$)	2.6331	Mexican (nuevo peso)	15.26
Austria (schillings)	18.91	Netherlands (guilders)	3.0312
Belgium (francs)	55.56	New Zealand (\$)	3.1061
Canada (\$)	2.5304	Norway (krone)	12.55
Cyprus (pounds)	0.7953	Portugal (escudos)	274.68
Denmark (krone)	10.31	Saudi Arabia (rials)	6.1464
Finland (markka)	8.2012	Singapore (\$)	2.6509
France (francs)	9.0288	Spain (pesetas)	228.85
Germany (marks)	2.7032	South Africa (rand)	9.6882
Greece (drachma)	452.30	Sweden (krone)	13.18
Hong Kong (\$)	12.67	Switzerland (francs)	2.1755
Ireland (pounds)	1.0821	Thailand (bahts)	55.36
India (rupees)	64.58	Turkey (liras)	495820
Israel (shekels)	6.4732	USA (\$)	1.6478
Italy (lira)	2676		
Japan (yen)	191.41		
Malaysia (ringgits)	6.1467		
Malta (lira)	0.6110		

Euro conversion weekend will 'run smoothly'

THE BANK OF ENGLAND and the Financial Services Authority issued a joint declaration yesterday that the "conversion weekend" over the New Year for the introduction of the euro on 1 January "will run smoothly".

The Bank has been preparing for the gigantic task of converting all the City's systems to cope with the single European currency.

Yesterday it published the 10th edition of its quarterly paper "Practical Issues Arising from the Introduction of the Euro", the last before the conversion date.

The Bank declared that it had been testing and trialling conversion of cash transfer systems such as Chaps and Target since the summer and these trials had gone well.

But the Bank warned that some second-tier fund managers and stockbrokers have failed to respond to the Bank's proposals for euro bank and custodian account details. The issues paper includes the availability of public transport and car parking in the City over the conversion weekend.

The Rotherhithe Tunnel will be closed, but parking in the City will be free of charge, and single yellow lines not enforced. Practical Issues has a circulation of 42,000 and is available on the Internet at <http://www.bankofengland.co.uk/pip.htm>.

John Townsend, the Bank of England's director for Europe, has steered the City's preparation for the Euro. He said yesterday: "Even though the UK is not joining the single currency at the outset, the euro will still be widely used across the City's financial markets."

Emap poised for \$1bn bid in first US deal

EMAP, the publishing group behind magazines such as *FHM*, *Elle* and *Smash Hits*, is poised to make its first move into the United States with a deal worth more than \$1bn.

Emap yesterday confirmed that it is in talks about making a recommended bid for The Petersen Companies, a Nasdaq-listed special-interest publisher whose magazine titles include *Guns & Ammo*, *Hot Rod* and *Skin Diver*. The acquisition would make Emap the world's leading magazine publishing group.

Shares in Petersen soared \$8.75 to \$30.25 on the news, valuing it at more than \$800m. The company is also carrying \$140m of long-term debt on its balance sheet.

Emap shares dropped 75p to 1050p on worries that the group was preparing a rights issue to help finance the acquisition. Analysts said the deal made strategic sense, although the price looked expensive.

Emap shares peaked at almost 1300p earlier this year, although they have since slipped back on worries that the economic slowdown would hit advertising revenues.

Shares in Petersen have risen steadily since it floated at a share price of \$17.50 in October 1997, although the company is not yet profitable. In the year to December 1997, Petersen reported a net loss of \$23.8m on revenues of \$239.7m.

Apart from its 80 magazine titles, Petersen also produces television programmes and runs trade shows.

Kevin Hand, who took over as chief executive of Emap earlier this year, is keen to expand the company into overseas markets. He recently shook up the group's management structure in order to concentrate on international expansion.

Emap has been highly successful in the UK market, but competition concerns mean that the company has limited room to grow in its main consumer publishing interests.

Ownership limits have prevented Emap from expanding its radio interests, which include the Kiss FM dance station. Earlier this year the group was forced to sell its Red Dragon station in Cardiff when it bought Melody Radio from Hanson.

As a result, the group has been restricted to starting new titles such as *Red*, the women's magazine that was launched successfully earlier this year.

Emap has been exploring launching *FHM*, its highly successful lad's magazine, in the US. Although several publishers have offered to publish the magazine on a franchise basis, Emap wants to retain editorial control. The company is also planning to launch *Top Sonnet*, its health title, in other markets.

Analysts said the worry was whether Emap's balance sheet could stretch to finance such a large deal. Mr Hand said recently that the company, which has debts of £150m, could afford to pay £600m for an acquisition. However, Emap's dependence on advertising revenues means it would be highly exposed if the economy slowed down.

AROUND THE WORLD'S MARKETS

LONDON

BLUE CHIPS recovered most of an early fall with Footsie ending 7.2 points lower at 5,534.5.

The stock market was ruffled by worries about the Far East and another poor New York opening. General Electric Co's bid to join the European defence merger talks left its shares down 18p at 521p; British Aerospace was little changed at 501.25p. Railtrack advanced 130p to 1,531p on hopes it will play a significant role in the revamp of the London Underground.

Derek Pain, page 17

NEW YORK

STOCKS fell amid concerns that Congress will impeach US President Bill Clinton.

In early afternoon trading, the Dow Jones index had fallen by nearly 1 per cent to 8,760, while the Nasdaq had dropped 1.4 per cent to 2,000. Computer stocks led the declines, with shares in Microsoft, Intel and Yahoo! all losing more than 1 per cent.

Analysts said the choppy activity was likely to increase over the week as the vote on the impeachment draws nearer.

TOKYO

THE NIKKEI INDEX shed 2 per cent, to close at 14,170, as the Bank of Japan's key quarterly "tankan" business survey triggered worries about Japan's business outlook.

News that the Japanese government is to nationalise the troubled Nippon Credit Bank also weighed on sentiment. The losses were led by banks, as investors feared that more ailing lenders may fall.

Industrial Bank, the last of the long-term credit banks, slid 5.5 per cent, while Yasuda Trust, a trust bank, slumped by 7 per cent.

HONG KONG

SHARES continued to struggle on concerns that the economy, which is going through its worst recession in 20 years, will slump even further.

By the close of trading, the benchmark Hang Seng index had fallen 1.3 per cent to 9,825. Hong Kong Telecommunications, the city's biggest phone company, fell nearly 3 per cent after the resignation of its chairman, Sun Hing Kai Properties, the city's largest developer, dropped 1.5 per cent.

FRANKFURT

GERMAN STOCKS pared early losses to rise for the first time in seven days, with many investors believing that the readjustment of the past week had been overdone.

By the close of trading, the benchmark DAX index had gained 0.5 per cent to 4,563.

Viag, Germany's third-largest utility, gained more than 3 per cent on speculation that it might acquire a stake in Energie Baden-Wuerttemberg, the utility company based in the South-west of the country.

[illegible]

514	302	Major Rcyng	417.5	0.0	10.3	1601
565	35	Major Rcyng	417.5	0.0	10.3	1601
608	35	Major Rcyng	417.5	0.0	10.3	1601
614	302	Major Rcyng	417.5	0.0	10.3	1601
655	35	Major Rcyng	417.5	0.0	10.3	1601
668	35	Major Rcyng	417.5	0.0	10.3	1601
674	302	Major Rcyng	417.5	0.0	10.3	1601
685	35	Major Rcyng	417.5	0.0	10.3	1601
698	35	Major Rcyng	417.5	0.0	10.3	1601
704	302	Major Rcyng	417.5	0.0	10.3	1601
715	35	Major Rcyng	417.5	0.0	10.3	1601
728	35	Major Rcyng	417.5	0.0	10.3	1601
734	302	Major Rcyng	417.5	0.0	10.3	1601
745	35	Major Rcyng	417.5	0.0	10.3	1601
758	35	Major Rcyng	417.5	0.0	10.3	1601
764	302	Major Rcyng	417.5	0.0	10.3	1601
775	35	Major Rcyng	417.5	0.0	10.3	1601
788	35	Major Rcyng	417.5	0.0	10.3	1601
794	302	Major Rcyng	417.5	0.0	10.3	1601
805	35	Major Rcyng	417.5	0.0	10.3	1601
818	35	Major Rcyng	417.5	0.0	10.3	1601
824	302	Major Rcyng	417.5	0.0	10.3	1601
835	35	Major Rcyng	417.5	0.0	10.3	1601
848	35	Major Rcyng	417.5	0.0	10.3	1601
854	302	Major Rcyng	417.5	0.0	10.3	1601
865	35	Major Rcyng	417.5	0.0	10.3	1601
878	35	Major Rcyng	417.5	0.0	10.3	1601
884	302	Major Rcyng	417.5	0.0	10.3	1601
895	35	Major Rcyng	417.5	0.0	10.3	1601
908	35	Major Rcyng	417.5	0.0	10.3	1601
914	302	Major Rcyng	417.5	0.0	10.3	1601
925	35	Major Rcyng	417.5	0.0	10.3	1601
938	35	Major Rcyng	417.5	0.0	10.3	1601
944	302	Major Rcyng	417.5	0.0	10.3	1601
955	35	Major Rcyng	417.5	0.0	10.3	1601
968	35	Major Rcyng	417.5	0.0	10.3	1601
974	302	Major Rcyng	417.5	0.0	10.3	1601
985	35	Major Rcyng	417.5	0.0	10.3	1601
998	35	Major Rcyng	417.5	0.0	10.3	1601
1004	302	Major Rcyng	417.5	0.0	10.3	1601
1015	35	Major Rcyng	417.5	0.0	10.3	1601
1028	35	Major Rcyng	417.5	0.0	10.3	1601
1034	302	Major Rcyng	417.5	0.0	10.3	1601
1045	35	Major Rcyng	417.5	0.0	10.3	1601
1058	35	Major Rcyng	417.5	0.0	10.3	1601
1064	302	Major Rcyng	417.5	0.0	10.3	1601
1075	35	Major Rcyng	417.5	0.0	10.3	1601
1088	35	Major Rcyng	417.5	0.0	10.3	1601
1094	302	Major Rcyng	417.5	0.0	10.3	1601
1105	35	Major Rcyng	417.5	0.0	10.3	1601
1118	35	Major Rcyng	417.5	0.0	10.3	1601
1124	302	Major Rcyng	417.5	0.0	10.3	1601
1135	35	Major Rcyng	417.5	0.0	10.3	1601
1148	35	Major Rcyng	417.5	0.0	10.3	1601
1154	302	Major Rcyng	417.5	0.0	10.3	1601
1165	35	Major Rcyng	417.5	0.0	10.3	1601
1178	35	Major Rcyng	417.5	0.0	10.3	1601
1184	302	Major Rcyng	417.5	0.0	10.3	1601
1195	35	Major Rcyng	417.5	0.0	10.3	1601
1208	35	Major Rcyng	417.5	0.0	10.3	1601
1214	302	Major Rcyng	417.5	0.0	10.3	1601
1225	35	Major Rcyng	417.5	0.0	10.3	1601
1238	35	Major Rcyng	417.5	0.0	10.3	1601

TELECOMMUNICATIONS						(354)	
521	406	NY	901.8	1.0	2.8	11.9	1612
529	495	Cable & Wireless	903.0	-0.8	1.8	12.2	1613
536	717	205	C & C Comm	530.5	5.3	-	2190
539	587	191	Cell Telecom	492.6	17.1	-	-

1300	252	Europe	514.0	5.5	-	4711		
050	582	Europe	614.8	5.5	-	4711		
001	887	285	Domestic	498.5	5.5	35.1	2586	
030	210	54	Subtotal	155.5	1.4	-	2586	
050	637	401	Subtotal	363.0	22.0	5.5	16.4	2577
042						(0.3)		
140								
000	390	264	Sub Amer Tot	514.5	17.5	1.8	-	1993
000	490	264	Canada	425.3	5.8	4.8	12.1	2222
317	695	372	Europe Tot	642.5	12.5	4.8	14.4	1271
			TRANSPORT			0.770		

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419	233	130	Dist Co	176.5	0.0	2.8	15.9	4409
420	256	196	DanceGroup	162.0	-1.0	4.6	16.6	4409
421	93	44	Expendable	73.5	-1.5	-	-	8844
422	505	204	RealGro	398.0	-3.0	2.2	22.5	-
423	148	96	Poker A	76.5	0.0	5.8	5.1	5336
424	662	489	Portu Ports	562.5	0.0	3.2	14.1	5202
425	312	110	Go-Ahead	111.0	0.0	6.3	13.5	1699
426	602	285	Genius Devt	276.5	2.6	0.5	9.2	2214
427	223	128	Inf Hlth	128.0	+0.5	4.4	8.3	3552
428	97	46	Jones	86.0	0.0	4.0	25.1	2926
429	130	67	Wm. Harte	67.0	-0.5	1.0	1.0	8844

643	43	Wesley Drake	168.0	-15.0	8.0	17.7	1636
1132	349	Inc Express	108.0	-13.5	1.6	31.5	533
200	91	WFO	108.0	5.0	0.0	240.0	4717
604	4	Cosmo City	683.0	-3.4	2.5	28.7	126
122	63	Cosmo Wilson	85.0	0.0	0.5	4.5	2705
101	1639	482 P & M	671.0	-25.0	8.5	12.8	4612
374	1789	823 Holladay	1581.0	18.0	1.8	28.0	6911
535	274	Grand Ridge	334.5	-	-	30.3	277
135	130	77 Sullivan C	95.0	-1.0	7.1	28.4	1401
127	102	Swanick	125.0	0.5	5.3	10.1	3171
361	133	Shorebrook	125.0	-2.5	1.8	10.9	3990

608	296	Wetland S	307.5	0.0	77	7.5	3706
053	393	Truckee-Carson	542.5	-0.5	-	676.1	1660
301	180	Tahoeport Dev	238.5	-1.5	54	0.0	1454
77	0	Los Carneros	15.5	x 0.0	-	2.7	1153
WATER			-0.037				
1884	596	Anglen	822.0	-10.0	5.0	187	4013
54	48	Anglen S	52.0	0.0	-	-	4246
1509	1205	Refined Water	1480.0	x 0.0	4.0	9.1	5700
603	445	One Valley Wtr	452.5	-2.0	5.0	5.8	3825

[illegible]

500	431	Yamaha	265.5	1.0	0.5	49.8	401.6
▲		▲	▲	▲	▲	0.025%	
343	210	A. de Gruchy Hovag	225.0	0.0	4.9	13.2	
271	175	Access Plus PLC	175.0	0.0	3.8	18.8	
95	34	Albionville & Bond	64.0	x 0.0	2.0	17.3	
134	94	AMCO Corporation	95.0	0.0	9.2	3.4	
		Am Steel Group	265.0	x 0.0	5.4	8.3	
116	73	Amkor	73.5	0.0			
111	68	Amkor Int'l PLC	63.5	0.0			
405	329	Asht Central	352.6	7.5	0.4	41.5	

25	8	Atlantic Caspian	0.0	0.0	
116	42	Barbican (Africa)	112.5	0.0	197.5
130	123	BATNA Adv. Comm.	176.5	0.0	0.0
239	88	BDO Technology	30.0	0.0	
316	137	BGR	1.85	0.0	
357	60	Bomb Inc Software	97.5	0.0	22.0
262	106	C.A. Gaults	127.5	0.0	3.6
89	30	Card Clear	42.5	0.0	0.8
364	175	Cellco	285.0	0.0	13.1
107	73	Cheney Int. Com(TV)	59.5	0.0	4.2

157	80	Chickadee Avenue	783.0	-0.0	-
110	87	Debbie's Village	792.0	0.0	50.0
25	14	Director	712.0	0.0	-
129	101	Donnell Holdings	803.0	0.0	2.0
29	9	Corbin Republic	750.0	0.0	-
318	118	Conover PLC	150.0	0.0	16.0
368	126	Comprehensive US	43.0	0.0	25.0
182	100	CHC Bros	122.0	0.0	1.0
490	163	Deep-Sea Lure	257.0	0.0	37.0
196	195	Doherty Garden	240.0	-10.0	24.0
256	145	Diamond South	141.0	0.0	20.0

711	74	Guyonet	199.9	-0.5	
150	120	Reckman/Rockwell	152.5	0.0	
105	73	Interphase	81.5	0.0	7.8 10.0
388	160	Kuro Sales/Futures	227.5	0.0	0.5 20.0
524	195	Fluorol Growth	335.5	1.0	
414	185	Westcoast First	308.5	2.0	
13	46	Gold Thompson Em.	60.5	0.0	3.1 0.0
64	3	Gender Holdings	5.8	0.0	
100	95	Gurtek W&B	105.8	-1.0	4.7 8.7
382	166	GB Resources Grp	157.8	0.0	5.2 4.7

194	15	Gas for Midge Gap	26.0	6.5	
173	12	Gold Mines of Sand	21.5	-1.3	
70	15	Gold Class Higgs	20.5	0.0	2.0
177	113	Gasch & Hoogstra 112.5	0.0	0.6	
175	160	Gulton Group	180.0	0.0	41.1
256	142	Harcy Underflow Gas	185.0	-2.5	41.8
481	215	Harcuts Property	217.5	+2.5	2.9
145	73	Hymans-Sydney Gas	0.0	15	18.0
636	19	Indochinese Energy	22.5	-5.8	
323	32	Ironstone and Higgs	44.0	0.0	

99	75	Inter Workings Grp	44.5	0.0	
77	74	Intelligence Env Grp	46.0	-2.0	
130	30	Insatm Tech Grp	108.5	0.0	
648	373	Instr. Gradings	817.5	15.0	13 10.2
173	30	KIC International	34.5	0.0	
190	18	IS Solutions	265.0	0.0	13 19.0
416	280	Jeanings Brothers	280.5	2.0	30 11.3
320	320	JMA & S (Burton)	235.5	2.5	
194	137	Knightsbridge Leisure	136.5	0.0	18 14.8
426	375	Lovestock	375.0	0.0	30 13.2
640	330	Lovett Group	459.0	0.0	

[illegible]

32	11	WEST Grand Plot	35.5	9.0	
33	12	Northampton Forest	31.0	0.0	
37	13	DEE Aerial Syn	17.0	0.0	25.7
44	14	2nd Porton Bombarda	17.0	2.3	
115	15	1st Porton Bombarda	78.5	0.9	
111	16	Porton Master Gun	199.5	0.0	3722
117	17	1942 PWG Plot	125.5	0.0	
127	18	4th Porton Bombarda	85.0	0.0	
116	19	1st Porton Gun	3.0	0.0	
118	20	Porton Gun	352.5	2.5	6.2
121	21				

115	2 Cusack Ther AC	77.5	0.0	-	4617
171	233 Raynor Energy	77.5	0.0	8.1	
171	63 Acord from Gas	62.5	0.0	163.2	
175	50 Resources & Corp	37.5	0.0		
180	Self Group	168.0	0.0	1.4	19.4
44	117 Sewerage Systems	157.5	0.0	0.8	23.2
00	5 Sun Energy	3.2	0.0		
00	16 Sports Outdoor	67.5	1.0		3724
120	Selfware	215.0	0.0	1.2	19.9
97	1 Steves	11.0	0.0		

198	244	1980	00	16	128	
40	4	1981	00	04		3745
50	12	1982	00	04		
60	12	1983	00	04		
70	12	1984	00	04		
80	12	1985	00	04		
90	12	1986	00	04		
100	12	1987	00	04		
110	12	1988	00	04		
120	12	1989	00	04		
130	12	1990	00	04		
140	12	1991	00	04		
150	12	1992	00	04		
160	12	1993	00	04		
170	12	1994	00	04		
180	12	1995	00	04		
190	12	1996	00	04		
200	12	1997	00	04		
210	12	1998	00	04		
220	12	1999	00	04		
230	12	2000	00	04		
240	12	2001	00	04		
250	12	2002	00	04		
260	12	2003	00	04		
270	12	2004	00	04		
280	12	2005	00	04		
290	12	2006	00	04		
300	12	2007	00	04		
310	12	2008	00	04		
320	12	2009	00	04		
330	12	2010	00	04		
340	12	2011	00	04		
350	12	2012	00	04		
360	12	2013	00	04		
370	12	2014	00	04		
380	12	2015	00	04		
390	12	2016	00	04		
400	12	2017	00	04		
410	12	2018	00	04		
420	12	2019	00	04		
430	12	2020	00	04		
440	12	2021	00	04		
450	12	2022	00	04		
460	12	2023	00	04		
470	12	2024	00	04		
480	12	2025	00	04		
490	12	2026	00	04		
500	12	2027	00	04		
510	12	2028	00	04		
520	12	2029	00	04		
530	12	2030	00	04		
540	12	2031	00	04		
550	12	2032	00	04		
560	12	2033	00	04		
570	12	2034	00	04		
580	12	2035	00	04		
590	12	2036	00	04		
600	12	2037	00	04		
610	12	2038	00	04		
620	12	2039	00	04		
630	12	2040	00	04		
640	12	2041	00	04		
650	12	2042	00	04		
660	12	2043	00	04		
670	12	2044	00	04		
680	12	2045	00	04		
690	12	2046	00	04		
700	12	2047	00	04		
710	12	2048	00	04		
720	12	2049	00	04		
730	12	2050	00	04		
740	12	2051	00	04		
750	12	2052	00	04		
760	12	2053	00	04		
770	12	2054	00	04		
780	12	2055	00	04		
790	12	2056	00	04		
800	12	2057	00	04		
810	12	2058	00	04		
820	12	2059	00	04		
830	12	2060	00	04		
840	12	2061	00	04		
850	12	2062	00	04		
860	12	2063	00	04		
870	12	2064	00	04		
880	12	2065	00	04		
890	12	2066	00	04		
900	12	2067	00	04		
910	12	2068	00	04		
920	12	2069	00	04		
930	12	2070	00	04		
940	12	2071	00	04		
950	12	2072	00	04		
960	12	2073	00	04		
970	12	2074	00	04		
980	12	2075	00	04		
990	12	2076	00	04		
1000	12	2077	00	04		
1010	12	2078	00	04		
1020	12	2079	00	04		
1030	12	2080	00	04		
1040	12	2081	00	04		
1050	12	2082	00	04		
1060	12	2083	00	04		
1070	12	2084	00	04		
1080	12	2085	00	04		
1090	12	2086	00	04		
1100	12	2087	00	04		
1110	12	2088	00	04		
1120	12	2089	00	04		
1130	12	2090	00	04		
1140	12	2091	00	04		
1150	12	2092	00	04		
1160	12	2093	00	04		
1170	12	2094	00	04		
1180	12	2095	00	04		
1190	12	2096	00	04		
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1220	12	2099	00	04		
1230	12	2100	00	04		
1240	12	2101	00	04		
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1260	12	2103	00	04		
1270	12	2104	00	04		
1280	12	2105	00	04		
1290	12	2106	00	04		
1300	12	2107	00	04		
1310	12	2108	00	04		
1320	12	2109	00	04		
1330	12	2110	00	04		
1340	12	2111	00	04		
1350	12	2112	00	04		
1360	12	2113	00	04		
1370	12	2114	00	04		
1380	12	2115	00	04		
1390	12	2116	00	04		
1400	12	2117	00	04		
1410	12	2118	00	04		
1420	12	2119	00	04		
1430	12	2120	00	04		
1440	12	2121	00	04		
1450	12	2122	00	04		
1460	12	2123	00	04		
1470	12	2124	00	04		
1480	12	2125	00	04		
1490	12	2126	00	04		
1500	12	2127	00	04		
1510	12	2128	00	04		
1520	12	2129	00	04		
1530	12	2130	00	04		
1540	12	2131	00	04		
1550	12	2132	00	04		
1560	12	2133	00	04		
1570	12	2134	00	04		
1580	12	2135	00	04		
1590	12	2136	00	04		
1600	12	2137	00	04		
1610	12	2138	00	04		
1620	12	2139	00	04		
1630	12	2140	00	04		
1640	12	2141	00	04		
1650	12	2142	00	04		
1660	12	2143	00	04		
1670	12	2144	00	04		
1680	12	2145	00	04		
1690	12	2146	00	04		
1700	12	2147	00	04		
1710	12	2148	00	04		
1720	12	2149	00	04		
1730	12	2150	00	04		
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1770	12	2154	00	04		
1780	12	2155	00	04		
1790	12	2156	00	04		
1800	12	2157	00	04		
1810	12	2158	00	04		
1820	12	2159	00	04		
1830	12	2160	00	04		
1840	12	2161	00	04		
1850	12	2162	00	04		
1860	12	2163	00	04		
1870	12	2164	00	04		
1880	12	2165	00	04		
1890	12	2166	00	04		
1900	12	2167	00	04		
1910	12	2168	00	04		
1920	12	2169	00	04		
1930	12	2170	00	04		
1940	12	2171	00	04		
1950	12	2172	00	04		
1960	12	2173	00	04		
1970	12	2174	00	04		
1980	12	2175	00	04		
1990	12	2176	00	04		
2000	12	2177	00	04		
2010	12	2178	00	04		
2020	12	2179	00	04		
2030	12	2180	00	04		
2040	12	2181	00	04		
2050	12	2182	00	04		
2060	12	2183	00	04		
2070	12	2184	00	04		
2080	12	2185	00	04		
2090	12	2186	00	04		
2100	12	2187	00	04		
2110	12	2188	00	04		
2120	12	2189	00	04		
2130	12	2190	00	04		
2140	12	2191	00	04		
2150	12	2192	00	04		
2160	12	2193	00	04		
2170	12	2194	00	04		
2180	12	2195	00	04		
2190	12	2196	00	04		
2200	12	2197	00	04		
2210	12	2198	00	04		
2220	12	2199	00	04		
2230	12	2200	00	04		
2240	12	2201	00	04		
2250	12	2202	00	04		
2260	12	2203	00	04		
2270	12	2204	00	04		
2280	12	2205	00	04		
2290	12	2206	00	04		
2300	12	2207	00	04		
2310	12	2208	00	04		
2320	12	2209	00	04		
2330	12	2210	00	04		
2340	12	2211	00	04		
2350	12	2212	00	04		
2360	12	2213	00	04		
2370	12	2214	00	04		
2380	12	2215	00	04		
2390	12	2216	00	04		
2400	12	2217	00	04		
2410	12	2218	00	04		
2420	12	2219	00	04		
2430	12	2220	00	04		
2440	12	2221	00	04		
2450	12	2222	00	04		
2460	12	2223	00	04		
2470	12	2224	00</			

Stock	Price	Change
Amazon	465	0.0
Costco Wholesale	102.3	-7.2
Home Depot	199.5	0.0
Walmart	280.0	0.0
Target	148.5	3.0
Best Buy	21.0	-0.5
Apple	45.5	0.0

source: **Bloomberg**
www.bloomberg.com/uk

CE DATA

the official closing mid price. Sector movements
points: declared gross dividend as a percentage
share price divided by last year's earnings per
share. Other details: Ex rights, Ex-dividend.
Prices are Bloomberg Generic.

IE - TEL 0891 - 201 200
 0891 - 201 200
 Shop - Market Summary Report.
 Price by keying ' plus a bridge code from p.
 policy please call the Help Desk on 0171-729-
 call the Help Desk on
 one minute

Cash
Savings
Stocks
Bonds
Insurance
Other

THE INDEPENDENT
Tuesday 15 December 1998

[illegible]

SPORT

'Henry's vision makes Wales worthy Five Nations bet

ENGLAND ARE 5-4 on for the Five Nations' Championship, France 6-4, Wales 8-1 and both Scotland and Ireland 40-1. To a certain extent these odds reflect the supposedly more open nature of the competition in 1999. In recent seasons at least one of the Celtic nations would have been at 66-1 or even longer odds.

England are still poor value, as they usually are, presumably because the bookmakers take account both of the money which has already been (as they like to say) invested and of the money which they anticipate will be. France are surely the cautious man's (or woman's) bet, while Wales are worth a flutter.

My native land are, for once, entering the competition with a rea-

sonably settled team, for which the new coach, Graham Henry, can take credit whatever happens in 1999. There are problems on the left wing, but then, for no reason I can see, that position has always presented difficulties in Wales. Henry has also to acquire a loose-head prop of international class.

I read somewhere the other day that what Wales needs is a new front row. This is more than a little unfair to the abilities of David Young at tight-head and of Jonathan Humphreys, Barrie Williams and Garin Jenkins as hookers. All of them could go - some have already gone - on a Lions trip without disgracing the party. I blame Cardiff for preferring Andrew Lewis at loose-head and shunting Lyndon Mustoe between the two prop po-

sitions. Mustoe has, like many players, suffered for his versatility.

Henry has put together a good back row - Colin Charvis, Scott Quinnell and Martyn Williams have long been available - and unpicked the lock problem by calling up Craig Quinnell, as I had been urging for some time, and moving Chris Wyatt from No 8, as the England coach, Clive Woodward, has done with Tim Rodber.

Though there has been much gloomy talk of Woodward's problems, despite the win over South Africa, he is in reality in much the same happy position as Henry. The difference is that, whereas Henry has reached it through a combination of an acute rugby intelligence with ordinary common sense, Woodward has a profusion of good-



ALAN WATKINS

ish players at his disposal and four outstanding performers in Jeremy Guscott, Martin Johnson, Lawrence Dallaglio and Neil Back.

Woodward will presumably stick with Matt Perry at full-back. As I wrote last week, his only genuine

problem is at outside-half. The most interesting news of the week was that Joel Stransky was keen to play for England in the World Cup. But Woodward has said that he would not pick him. In any case Stransky is not qualified 'til September 1999. A correspondent points out that last week I erred about his age: he was born on 6 January 1967, which makes him 31, not 34. Apologies all round.

There is one other matter on which I would like to comment. The International Rugby Board is meeting in Dublin this week. One item on the agenda is the English clubs' challenge to the Rugby Football Union in the European Court. The IRB seems to believe that the RFU could and should have prevented this move by the clubs - that it has

been lax in maintaining good order and rugby discipline in England.

One of the board's luminaries is Vernon Pugh. He is a former pupil of my old school, the Amman Valley Grammar School, Ammanford. He is also a QC. I should have expected him to advise the IRB to follow a more prudent course.

Admittedly there is no compulsion on any person or organisation to assert what is claimed to be a legal right in the courts. It does not follow from this that a third party is entitled to try to dissuade the aggrieved person or organisation from asserting that right. On the contrary: the House of Lords has held that such an attempt at dissuasion can constitute a contempt of court and is punishable accordingly.

What is involved here - what the

international board wishes, even requires, the RFU to do - amounts to considerably more than an attempt at dissuasion such as would be made by a newspaper, say, in urging a rich plaintiff not to pursue a poor defendant. The board is asking the RFU to use its coercive powers to restrain the clubs from going to law, as they are legally entitled to do.

Certainly they are going to law in Europe rather than in the High Court in London. But under the European Communities Act 1972, European law is not only part of United Kingdom law but, in cases of conflict, supersedes it.

It is hard not to conclude that the IRB is urging the RFU to commit a contempt of court and, in so doing, is itself guilty of contempt.

Dorigo returns to hit the spot

A former England full-back who lost his way in Italy has put his career back on track with a move to Derby. By Ian Stafford

HALFTIME IN the away team's dressing-room at the City Ground, Nottingham. Jim Smith, the venerable Derby County manager, is addressing his troops. Glancing at Tony Dorigo, he asks his newly acquired wing-back to take on penalty duties for the second half.

"Sure, no problem," the experienced, former England international replied. Then the memories came flooding back. The last penalty Dorigo had taken, in a shoot-out during last May's promotion play-off between Torino and Perugia, resulted in a miss, indeed the only miss in the whole competi-

A stunned Torino, the so-called sleeping giants of Italian football, were sentenced to yet another season in Serie B.

"Moments after agreeing to take a penalty I wondered if the boss knew I'd missed with my last effort," Dorigo admits, as we sit in the Derby training ground pavilion drinking tea. "I thought I'd better not tell him."

As fate would have it, Derby were awarded a spot-kick after the break. Dorigo, the personification of calm, stepped forward and slotted home his penalty kick to help his team to a draw. "Funny enough, as I went to place the ball on the spot, I felt remarkably relaxed about it. I think that's because, although I was disappointed about the Torino miss, I wasn't emotionally scarred."

But it must have been awful at the time. Even thinking about it makes you want to curl up and die. Torino, languishing in the large and dark shadow of their city neighbours, Juventus, had cured their shock of

relegation two years ago with the assumption that they would bounce straight back up to Serie A.

Yet they finished an unimpressive fourth, above Perugia but only on goal difference. Italian rules dictated that the two sides had to fight it out in a one-off play-off match to decide which of them gained promotion. Torino were down to 10 men after just six minutes, but fought their way back to a 1-1 draw after extra time. At 3-3 in the penalty competition, Dorigo stepped forward and watched in horror as his shot crashed against the inside of the post and rolled across the goal.

"Torino would have made £20m if they'd gone up," he says, with a rueful smile on his face.

"I reckon I couldn't have been more than an inch away from scoring."

Instead, Perugia won 5-4. "I was the only player to miss a penalty."

What was the reaction like to him after this? "Not bad, actually," Dorigo says. "I was all over the front pages of the sporting newspapers and television in Italy, but the players were very understanding, and I was voted the team's player of the year. It wasn't very nice to have missed. It hurt. But I didn't feel Torino's failure to get promoted as my fault."

The result, though, changed Dorigo's circumstances. On a two-year contract, the former Aston Villa, Chelsea and Leeds defender had joined the Italians from Elland Road on the Bosman ruling for the start of the 1997-8 season. "I always wanted to play in Italy, especially as my father's Italian, and I knew Torino



Tony Dorigo, a seasoned professional with a high-quality pedigree, believes he has much to offer a Derby County team with many foreign players

Peter Jay

were a big club. The plan was to play in Serie B for a season, and then enjoy the likes of Juventus, Milan and Inter the next after Torino's promotion."

As Dorigo does not need reminding, this failed to materialise. Suddenly he and his club had a problem. "Torino were paying their players Serie A wages. They could do this for a season, but not for two. Although they wanted me to stay, they offered me a 50 per cent pay cut."

"Playing in Italy was a great education for me, both as a current player, and for someone who plans to turn to coaching and management. I had learnt the language and, at the age of 32, can finally speak to my father in Italian. And the kids (Dorigo has three) were coming along well. But I couldn't afford to stay, and I didn't feel Torino's offer was right."

What made matters worse was that the Italians only got round to

mentioning their reduced offer to Dorigo at the end of July, a time when most English Premiership clubs had completed their summer shopping for the new season. "I spent August flying backwards and forwards to Turin, packing up my house, and training by myself," he explains. "Torino definitely left me in a hole when they couldn't honour their contract."

In truth, Dorigo's task became difficult as soon as his manager, Graeme Souness, was shown the door after just six games of the season.

"Graeme was definitely one of the reasons why I joined in the first place," he admits. "He had tried to sign me for Rangers when I was at Chelsea, and we got along well. But Graeme's problem was that I was the only player he was allowed to sign. The rest, all 15 of them, had been presented to Souness. We

were expected to win every game. Looking back, he didn't really stand much of a chance."

Derby had already shown an interest in the English export at the back end of last season.

"Like an idiot, I told them I was happy at Torino. How did I know I was then going to miss the penalty that condemned us to another season in a lower league?" Jim Smith, though, was persistent. After a short trial, which Dorigo passed with flying colours, and a handful of Premiership matches in which he impressed, he duly signed a two-year deal on 19 November.

Perhaps the only surprise in all this is how Dorigo has slotted back into Premiership football. At 32 he is hardly drawing on his pension yet, but after a long injury at Leeds, and his last cap gained during the infamous World Cup qualifying defeat in Rotterdam over four years

ago, there might have been a feeling within the game that Dorigo's shelf life was fast running out.

"I'd understand that," he concedes. "I think my 10-month absence through injury, and my season in Italy had made me a forgotten man. People may not remember that I was part of the League championship-winning team at Leeds, or that I won 15 caps and figured in the 1988 and 1992 European Championship, and 1990 World Cup squads."

"The problem was that Stuart Pearce was always above me in the pecking order. The timing of my injury didn't help either. It was a basic hamstring injury in my left leg, but it was misdiagnosed, and I kept on coming back too early. But I haven't changed as a player."

"I think what helps me at Derby is that I'm English. In a team of many foreign players, and I'm experienced,

The game suits me more now, too. Wing-backs seem to be in favour, and that's a system that allows a player like me more of a chance to shine."

All in all, his decision to leave his native Australia at the age of 16 and sign as an apprentice with Villa has turned out to be a good one, give or take the odd hiccup. Despite 15 English caps to his Italian surname, Dorigo still sees himself as an Aussie first.

"When it comes to football, then it's England," he insists as he makes his way out to the car park. "In the current Ashes series, though, it's no contest. Australia always gets the nod over the Poms."

And what if he is asked to take another penalty for Derby, this time in a cup final, or a play-off match? Dorigo laughs, and for the first time all morning, sounds like an antipodean.

"No worries, mate," he says, and smiles off.

Dream away the long winter nights in this fantasy world

WHEN THE *World Atlas of Golf* was first published in 1976, Tom Scott in *Golf Illustrated* gave it the sort of review a publisher would kill for at this time of year. "A book," Scott wrote, "you would love to give to your oldest and dearest golfing friend and one which you yourself would like to receive as a present."

Scott went on: "It succeeds brilliantly and the result of the combined efforts of all concerned is a book which far exceeds anything of the kind which has ever been attempted before and which therefore is a golf collector's dream."

The revised and updated edition (Hamlyn, £25) published this autumn cannot quite tribute but it is still a magnificent tome and would be welcomed by any golfer even if he or she already possessed the

original. Like a good round of golf - where all parts of a player's game come together and are complemented by fine weather, good company and a well-stocked 19th - the combined efforts of all those involved in the new edition of the *World Atlas of Golf* make it the ideal antidote to the long winter nights as playing gives way to fantasy golf.

The subtitle is "The Greatest Courses and How to Play Them", something you can do from your armchair. The superb photography, stylish illustrations and course guides bring each of the exotic venues to life, but it is the quality of the writing that does most to stir the imagination.

The publishers of the original edition found the perfect fourball for their enterprise. Pat Ward-Thomas, Herb Warren Wind and Charles

Price are giants of the pantheon of golf writers while Peter Thomson, the five-times Open winner, belongs to the pantheon of champion golfers. It was the task of Derek Lawrenson to update their prose and he has brought it off far better than when many modern golf course architects are hired to revise an old masterpiece.

Lawrenson has left alone much of the main text but overhauled many of the accompaniments that illustrated some of the great holes and their place in the history of the great championships. Modern technology has not only led to many changes to old courses but to how they are played. The perfect example is the 11th at Augusta National. Once played by Ben Hogan with a drive and a four-iron deliberately short right of the green,

BOOKS FOR CHRISTMAS

Today: *Golf*

Tiger Woods could shoot straight for the flag with a sand wedge while winning the 1997 Masters.

Some 70 courses are covered in great detail and another 110 are featured with short notes in the *Gazetteer*. Lawrenson has left the choice of courses largely as it was, a comment on the quality of new tournament venues in the last 25 years although Muirfield Village is unlucky not to be promoted to the main section. Two that have been are Ballybunion and Royal Troon

while three new additions are The Belfry, soon to stage its fourth Ryder Cup in 2001, Loch Lomond and Valderrama.

Reflections on the great courses and great players and more are featured in *Dobereiner on Golf*, and more (edited by Robert Green and Ruth Dobereiner, Aurum Press, £12.95). Peter Dobereiner may have passed away two years ago but his words live on. This collection may have all been published previously, mainly in the *Observer*, *Golf World* or *Golf Digest*, but are no less welcome for all that.

The "and more" in the title refers to scripts written for TV3, the *Have I Got News for You* of its day, which only goes to emphasise that whether Dobereiner was writing about golf or other matters, his principal aim was to raise a laugh.

Some of Dobereiner's best lines - such as "the best way to build a golf course is to start 200 years ago" - are featured in *The Quotable Golfer* (edited by Robert Windeler, Running Press, £9.99).

Much wit and wisdom is contained between the covers. Jack Nicklaus-designed courses, according to David Feherty, "are like those hot-air hand dryers in toilets. They are a great idea and everybody uses them once but not again. They take too long."

The combustible Tommy Bolt had this to say when asked for a golfing tip: "Never break your putter and your driver in the same round or you're dead." But George Archer seems to have got the wrong end of the stick: "If it wasn't for golf, I'd probably be a caddy today."

Finally, for the millionaire in

your life who has everything, there is *The Golfer and the Millionaire* (by Mark Fisher, Cassell, £5.99). From the same author of *The Instant Millionaire*, *How to Think Like a Millionaire* and *The New Art of Loving*, this is a self-improvement book subtitled "... it's about having the balls to succeed."

This is exactly the sort of book that Peter Dobereiner was thinking of when he wrote that "used properly, a book is all you need to become a champion."

"What you do is balance it on the top of your head and then swing a club as hard as you can. Once you have mastered the art of taking a full, vicious swing without dislodging the book, you can play golf. If you should succumb to the temptation of reading it, then all is lost."

Andy Farrell



SPORT

HAPPY RETURN FOR DORIGO P19 • BAD DAY FOR ELWAY'S BRONCOS P21



Vieira's £20,000 fine for V-sign

THE ARSENAL midfielder Patrick Vieira was cleared of assaulting a police officer by a Football Association disciplinary commission yesterday but must pay a £20,000 fine – equalling the record handed out by the FA – for a V-sign he made towards Sheffield Wednesday fans at the end of the Premiership match, won 1-0 by the Owls, at Hillsborough on 26 September.

The Arsenal manager, Arsène Wenger, was an eyewitness to the alleged tunnel bust-up between Vieira and South Yorkshire police officer Jim Tune and admitted after the hearing that he had feared the weight of police evidence – three officers including Tune attended the commission in Birmingham – would count against his 22-year-old French World Cup winner.

Wenger said: "I must admit I feared the case might have gone against Patrick and the club because it is not often you get three officers giving evidence in such a case. It's the first time I've seen that in 30 years in football. The evidence of the police is always strong and you will have to ask them why they decided to pursue this case."

"I am surprised the police came here and said what they did today because if there had been real evidence I would have expected a criminal case to have been brought against Patrick – not a footballing case."

When asked about the validity of the police evidence, Wenger said: "I would say the police were sincere but there was no aggressive behaviour from Patrick towards the police. I am not in the position to make

FOOTBALL

BY JOHN CURTIS

any statement about justice in England. You can see that this was footballing justice."

Vieira's fine is the equivalent of around one and a half weeks' wages and equals the punishment given to Vinnie Jones for his narration of the Soccer's Hard Men video in November 1992.

An FA spokesman, Steve Double, said: "Patrick Vieira was today found guilty of misconduct following an incident at the end of the Sheffield Wednesday-Arsenal match in September. An FA commission heard police evidence that the player made a two-fingered gesture to the crowd at the end of the match."

"It is also said an officer who tried to usher Patrick Vieira down the players' tunnel was pushed in the chest, causing him to stumble across the tunnel. Vieira admitted to the commission that he had made a V-sign in response to racial abuse from the crowd. As he went down the tunnel he felt himself grabbed from behind by an unknown assailant. He said he had broken free without realising it was a police officer."

"The commission heard supporting evidence from club officials, including Arsène Wenger. The commission ruled that Vieira was guilty of misconduct in relation to the gesture to the crowd but not guilty in relation to any alleged assault against the police officer."

"Vieira has apologised to the commission over his conduct and has been reminded of his responsibilities as a footballer."



Patrick Vieira, the Arsenal midfielder, conveys news of the verdict after yesterday's FA disciplinary hearing in Birmingham

Vieira was also ordered to pay part of the costs of the three and a half hour hearing and warned as to his future conduct.

In a statement, Superintendent John Donnelly, of South Yorkshire police, said: "We have always said we would be happy with whatever the FA decided about Vieira's conduct."

"The incident in the tunnel involved one of our officers and

we felt that the FA should take it into consideration when looking at the serious allegations about his behaviour."

"My officers are there to help, to prevent violence and trouble. Players need to know this as well as the fans."

Donnelly reiterated that the police would not be bringing any criminal prosecution against Vieira over the tunnel incident.

PAYING THE PRICE: TOP FINES IN THE NINETIES

£20,000 Patrick Vieira (Arsenal) December 1998: For making offensive gestures to fans during a 1-0 league defeat at Hillsborough.	£15,000 Ian Wright (Arsenal) July 1997: For remarks he made to a referee at Blackburn Rovers and for gestures he made to the crowd at Coventry City.	£10,000 (suspended for two years) Hans Segers & Bruce Grobelaar December 1997: Also given suspended six-month ban for breaking FA rules for betting on matches.
£20,000 Vinnie Jones (Wimbledon) November 1992: Also given a six-month playing ban (suspended for three years) for narrating Soccer's Hard Men video, which gave advice on how to foul players without the referees' noticing.	£10,000 Paolo Di Canio (Sheff Wed) November 1998: Also given 11-game suspension for pushing the referee Paul Alcock to the ground during stormy Premiership clash with Arsenal.	£10,000 Faustino Asprilla (Newcastle) April 1996: Also banned for one match after elbowing/busting Manchester City's Keith Curle at Wembley Road.

Viduka received 'torrent of abuse'

CROATIA ZAGREB claimed yesterday that they had still not received the £3m Celtic agreed to pay for the striker Marko Viduka. And the club insisted that if the money is not forthcoming in the next 10 days they will turn to world football's governing body, Fifa, and its European counterpart, Uefa, for guidance.

Viduka is now resting at home in Australia following his walk-out from Parkhead without playing a match. He said at a news conference yesterday that he was an emotional wreck after receiving a torrent of abuse from Zagreb's supporters.

Zagreb's spokesman Goran Bradic said: "The transfer fee was due last Thursday but we are prepared to wait another 10 days if necessary. If we do not receive the money by then we will have to turn to Fifa's and Uefa's lawyers to see what we can do."

Viduka insists he will return to Parkhead but claimed he had been unable to shop or eat out in Zagreb after being abused in the street. Bradic said: "Marko is a good guy, polite and honest, but maybe in some games for us he didn't try so hard. Once you get on the bad list of our fans it is almost impossible to win back their support."

"Our supporters are cruel. They don't think about people's emotions. For the past two years they have been taunting our president that he is a homosexual. They shout about your mother and your wife. But it's not all our supporters who act like this, maybe 5,000 out of 40,000. But if you are a public person who is highly paid then perhaps you have to put on a brave face."

Viduka walked out on Celtic nine days ago on the eve of his debut against Hearts in Tynecastle. He said: "I thought that once I had escaped to a new country with similar values to Australia that I would be able to once again excel at the game I live for and love. But that wasn't the case. So I decided to come back home – to recover, get my strength back – and then return to the only game I have ever wanted to play."

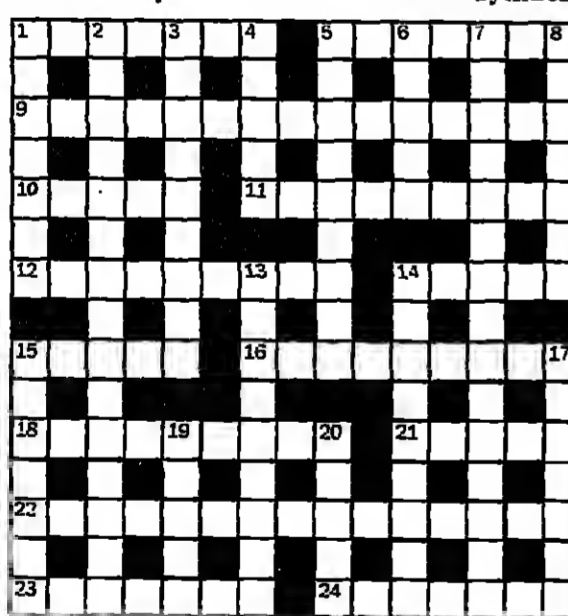
With the Premier League closing down on 3 January or three weeks, Viduka is unlikely to feature in Celtic's plans until February.

THE TUESDAY CROSSWORD

No.3794 Tuesday 15 December

By Aelred

Monday's Solution



ACROSS

- 1 Taking two pennies to change and a note (7)
- 5 Encouragement to get energy "gas" (3,4)
- 9 Far from quick comparison hammered home? (4,2,1,8)
- 10 Part of poem retained by African toddler (5)
- 11 Made opening for brainy types (9)
- 12 Lays bells out – that's three (9)
- 14 A time spent in the Strand in a fitting way (6)
- 15 Old time artist wants more (5)
- 16 Fellow's rewritten a history of a shrub (9)
- 18 ESP centre's thrown out 5 shams (9)

DOWN

- 21 Son played round, for example, with musical sign (5)
- 22 Programme of half-truths? (4,11)
- 23 After that time sappers will be genuine (7)
- 24 Playwright born Indian (7)
- 1 Old volumes depicting fish and desserts (7)
- 2 Detective, perhaps, is out a natty male dresser? (5,7,3)
- 3 Perhaps fiancée in Roma comes up beside one (9)
- 4 Service in top car model takes hard work (5)
- 5 Declare gold chair must be given to this one (9)

Warne and Waugh ordered to inquiry

CRICKET

BY LAWRENCE PRESCOTT

THE AUSTRALIAN Cricket Board has received a summons from a Pakistan judge asking for Shane Warne and Mark Waugh to appear before a betting and match-fixing inquiry.

"We've received it and we've told the players we've received it, but we won't discuss it at any length until they've finished their matches," ACB spokesman Patrick Keane said yesterday. Waugh is playing for Australia in the third Ashes test against England, which ends today.

Warne, still recovering from the effects of shoulder surgery, captained his Victoria state side in a domestic four-day Sheffield Shield match which ended in a draw against Queensland at the Melbourne Cricket Ground yesterday.

The two admitted last week that they had taken money from a bookmaker to provide pitch and weather information during Australia's 1994 tour of Sri Lanka and Pakistan. The pair were secretly fined by the ACB in early 1995 but the incident was not revealed until last week.

A spokesman for the Pakistan Cricket Board said that Justice Malik Mohammad Qayyum had issued a summons directing Waugh and Warne to appear before the inquiry on 19 December.

In October, during Australia's last tour of Pakistan, Waugh testified that former national captain Salim Malik had offered him a bribe during Australia's 1994 sub-continent tour

Malik has denied the allegations, and says the recent admissions by the two Australians prove his innocence. The judge leading the inquiry said Waugh's credibility had been damaged by his admission.

Waugh and Warne are both scheduled to play in a Sheffield Shield match in Sydney starting on 19 December and Warne has not travelled to Pakistan since the 1994 tour. Warne declined an earlier request to appear before the inquiry.

The pair both strongly denied being involved in match-fixing or bribery. Warne said yesterday that he would decide in the next 48 hours, in conjunction with the ACB, whether or not to go to Pakistan.

He said his version of events would not differ from what he had said four years ago and rejected any suggestion the fact that he and Waugh had received money from a bookmaker would taint their credibility as witnesses. "Nothing has changed. The same thing still happened," he said of the Malik affair.

"Yes, Mark and I were involved with a bookmaker but nothing has changed between what happened between Salim Malik, myself, Mark Waugh and Tim May. He still offered us money to throw a game and we said 'No'."

Warne said the past week had been difficult and, in hind-

sight, it might have been better had the ACB not withheld the information four years ago.

He said he was determined not to let the controversy get the better of him. "I've still got a smile," Warne said after Victoria's match yesterday. "There is a lot of talk going around but so what, there is always going to be rumour and innuendo."

"I'm still the same person I have been for 29 years and people that are close to me still know what sort of person I am. But in these sorts of situations I suppose you work out who your real friends are, who aren't and who is on your side and who isn't."

Meanwhile, world cricket's governing body is to launch an inquiry into a wave of damaging match-fixing and betting allegations.

International Cricket Council president, Jagmohan Dalmiya, said the situation had reached a point where the ICC could no longer sit on the fence and ignore the effects of the claims.

"Unfortunately the very fabric of the great game is being damaged due to the charges of match fixing or betting brought by the players," said Dalmiya. Dalmiya said: "It is time for the ICC to step in as these allegations are spreading like a wild infection. If anybody is found guilty then stringent action should be taken."

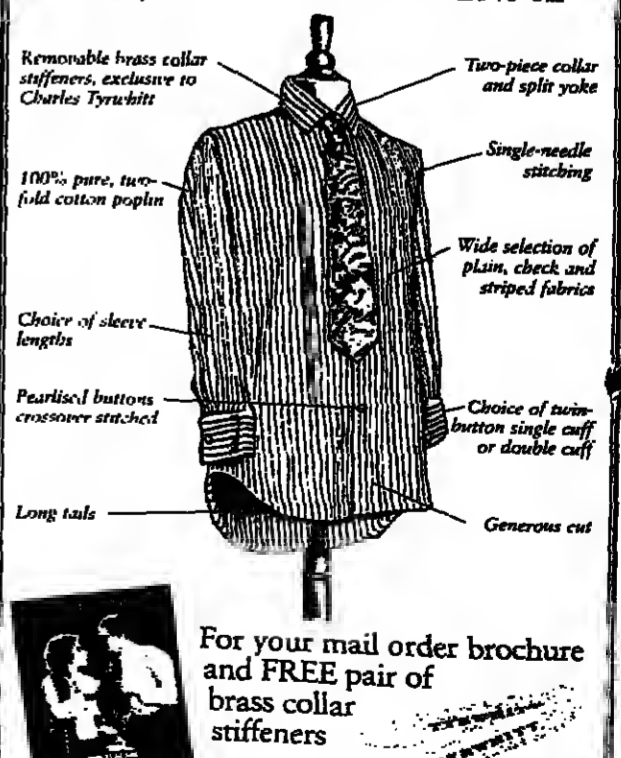
He added that the ICC would act in a decisive manner and not allow the issue to be swept under the carpet.

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TUESDAY REVIEW

COMMENT • FEATURES • ARTS • LISTINGS • TELEVISION

The lost sons of Iona



Brian Fair

Hay, Kirkpatrick, Dougal, MacFadyen 'They were as much a part of the island as the very rocks themselves'

I can see the red boats dancing over the Sound of Iona. I can see the seagulls prancing over the sound of Iona (a traditional song). As a freelance journalist who spent most of his childhood holidays on the Hebridean island of Iona, it was inevitable that I would be up on Sunday morning. The grotesque news had begun to filter through about the loss of the four young men who had drowned the night before, while returning to the island from a dance on the neighbouring island of Mull.

At first I found it almost impossible to speak. As a child, my abiding passion had been a wooden dinghy almost identical to the one in which the men had been travelling when it overturned, and I knew every inch of that sea journey which they had been making. Worse still, I knew the families that they were all anxious to get home to.

I too have been to the dances in the village of Bunessan and returned after them across the Sound of Iona in the moonlight. I too had seen the phosphorescence explode from the boughs of my dingy as it crunched through the waves, as they would have done. I too have heard running waves heaving unexpectedly out of the darkness, as they would have done, felt those waves lift the boat, as they would have done, and bailed the salty spray from the hilges. Though out with as much passion as they would have done.

Such moments have been among the most exhilarating of my life, and I can remember throwing my head back and yelling at the stars at the glory of it all. It was, so they tell me, a starlit night when they died.

Two days after the accident I feel I must write something, because wherever I have been today I have heard mutterings from those who don't understand what happened on that night. Many have seemed only too quick to assume that the drownings were a result of a group of foolish young men who went to sea in an inappropriate boat with too much drink in them. To me, it is inconceivable that that was the case.

So what did happen on Saturday night on Iona? We shall never fully know. But what we do know as fact is that five highly experienced young seamen, who probably knew that stretch of water better than anyone else alive, made a valid decision to cross it in weather certainly no worse than that in which they would have crossed it many times before. They were travelling in a small boat that was famous for the steadfast way that it went about its normal task - which was to deliver the crew of a fishing boat every day across that very same stretch of water. We also know that the coastguard has said that the boat was not overloaded. And that all but one of them was lost.

Were they drunk? No. I simply cannot believe such a possibility. It was well-known in the locality that whenever these boys were out they always appointed a non-drinker in the party and the local publican has confirmed that this was the case on Saturday night. These weren't daft laddies; they were grown men and experienced seamen all.

Was the weather too rough then? Patently yes, but I can only assume that it was a freak patch of roughness rather than general bad weather - otherwise they would have stayed with their friends on Mull, just as they would have done on many other occasions.

So what went wrong? If I had to chance a guess, I would envisage a freak shower of rain which blocked out the moon, a huge wave roaring down the shallow Sound of Iona, a chance moment when the lack of visibility coincided with the arrival of that wave, and the boat eventually overturning. Maybe there was a rock involved. In Gaelic we have a saying: "The sea forgives, but the rocks are merciless."

Even though these men died young they will have probably lived more in their short lives than many who die old in cities. I salute them. But it is those left behind on the island who will have to pay a heavy price for this accident.

I have been thinking today particularly of one widow, a good woman - if the term has any meaning at all - who has lost her only son, after losing his equally decent father to cancer when that man was in his forties. I have been thinking of a young girl howling in a caravan. I have been thinking of three families who have lost their only son.

And I have been thinking of the 70-strong community on Iona.

Yesterday a community worker who works on Mull and Iona phoned me to say that she didn't believe that the tiny island community of Iona would ever recover from the loss of so many of its most promising young men, but I had to disagree with her. Nevertheless, the loss is great. Take, for example, Logie MacFadyen.

Logie, just 23, ran his family croft on the north end of the island. It overlooks the white sands of Iona, which were made famous by the Iona colourists Peploe and Bunty Cadell. Logie's father, the late Doodie MacFadyen, was one of the most respected members of the community and now lies buried next to John Smith, the former Labour leader. Doodie died of cancer while he was still in his forties and Logie was just in his teens.

After his father's death, Logie would return from school at Oban on the weekends to work the croft. The community was hugely impressed by the way a child did a man's job. It is particularly sad that now with Logie gone, his widowed mother, Jane, will have to manage the land all by herself.

Then there is Bob Hay, 23, a member of the Beatto family. He helped crew a tourist boat which took visitors out to Fingal's Cave on Staffa. Davy Kirkpatrick, 23, also lost, worked on the prawn trawler *The Silver Spray*, with Ally Dougal, only 19 and another fisherman who has fallen victim to this tragedy. The Kirkpatricks will be very hard hit. They are a well-known Iona family, specialising in boats, running a fish-

ing vessel and a tourist boat.

The Beatoons, the Kirkpatricks, the Dougals, the MacFadyens are as much part of the island of Iona as the very rocks themselves and, although the island community is vulnerable, it is also perversely a very strong one because of those families and several others like them.

The community will react with immense sadness, dignity and self-reliance. As locals the men will be entitled to be buried at the Reilig Oran, which in the medieval period was known as the Westminster of Scotland. Here lie the kings and chieftains of Scotland in the medieval era. King Duncan was buried near to his murderer Macbeth, of Shakespearean fame.

No one knows when the funerals will take place as, at the time of writing, only one body has been found. The grieving will be nurtured by dozens of their extended family, many of whom will return to Iona when the funerals are possible, and by hundreds of other mourners who know the families through their annual visits to the island.

At this moment on Iona the tiny community is suffering a downturn in its fortunes. The school is under threat of closure. The people are suffering from bad seasons in tourism and farming while the price of housing is now equal to that in London. But the community will survive. It will survive because it is built from people like the ones who were lost on Saturday night. Deceit, hard-working people, people who are prepared to take a risk. People who love the place. People who deserve our admiration. Let our prayers be with them this Christmas.

"Oh that I could live forever, oar to the Sound of Iona/ I would leave thee never never, lovely Sound of Iona."

BY MAX MACLEOD

So what should we make of it all? Should we dismiss these men as hot-heads who got their just comeuppance? Well, you can if you like, but I won't.

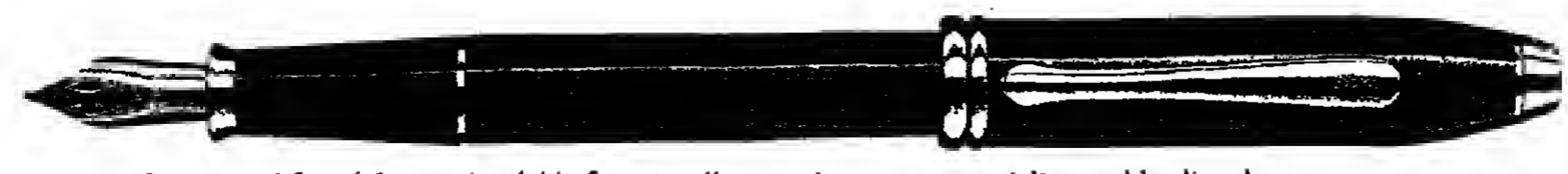
Recently I read a remark by Woody Allen, who said that much of the purpose of New York society was to create a situation where nothing ever happens. These guys lived in a place where "things" happen all the time, where danger and risk are integral parts of everyday life, and where indeed it is only those who take risks that survive at all.



The local police resumed their search for bodies on Monday morning. The missing men weren't 'daft laddies', but experienced seamen Brian Fair

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

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Lottery torture

Sir: Having been close to the problems of the Earth Centre for some time I have come to the conclusion that Lottery funding is a sophisticated form of torture. It raises hopes and stimulates dreams which are gradually ground down by the pressure of having to find matching funding.

The cynical flavour of Nozle Neisewand's article (11 December) will not have boosted morale at Conisborough. This is one of the Landmark projects which sets its sights well beyond the fix of the 2000 event. As the next century progresses the Earth Centre will become an international focus for information and research on matters to do with global warming and climate change. At present the idea of "sustainability" is fashionable; within the next few decades it could be a matter of life and death. There is no other enterprise under way which will so effectively point the way to survival.

I endorse Professor Ken Pounds' plea (letter, 14 December) that the Millennium Commission with government help ensures that enterprises which will shape the future, like the Earth Centre realise their design potential. Professor PETER F SMITH
School of Construction
Sheffield Hallam University

Ways to sell homes

Sir: Martin Fraser seems to think the current house purchase system cannot be improved upon (letter, 9 December). Is he a lawyer? Other countries have efficient and workable systems which produce less stress and anguish in house transfers.

Canada, for example. There is a standard agreement form and a few brief conditions are added, such as satisfactory survey and availability of funds within a specified time, maybe 10 to 14 days, during which time the offer to sell is legally regarded as irrevocable. When the conditions are met, the deal becomes final, unless concealed facts about title, or other statements by the vendor, become apparent within a further specified period. The purchaser pays a deposit (perhaps 1 to 2 per cent) which is surrendered if he reneges without due cause. Thus the deal has to be decided within a brief time limit - which depends on banks, lawyers and surveyors working effectively.

The land is (usually) already registered. No long chains build up and both vendor and purchaser soon know the outcome of the offer. Problems seem to be rare, and over the years I bought and sold three houses there with less doubt than a single purchase here. There can be a better way.

KEN JOY
Kenilworth, Warwickshire

Sir: I am a retired chartered surveyor who is less than proud of my institution and its role in government proposals on the housing market. The only possible reason that the Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors should "hall revolution in house buying" (report, 8 December) is that it sees the government proposals as an opportunity for surveyors to raise their profile and obtain more fees from unnecessary surveys which potential vendors would be forced to commission.

Any rational professional analysis must conclude that the proposals would deter many house-owners from putting properties on the market, thus increasing scarcity and forcing prices upwards with more, not less, opportunity for gouging. The "seller's pack" could cost a vendor up to £1,000 just to put the property on the market and both the survey and the legal search elements of the pack would be out of date in quite a short time. Any delay in finding a purchaser could therefore result in even more continuing expenditure for a vendor.

These proposals will disadvantage both the buyers and sellers. The Government should beware the partial advice of an



Christmas Workers No 2: the toy demonstrator. At Hamleys toy shop in London's West End, Stephen demonstrates blow-up gum

Tom Pilkston

institution representing a profession whose relevance continues its decline of recent years.
NICHOLAS HICKS
Maidstone, Kent

Nato's global role

Sir: Robin Cook is once more showing "Germany and US split over role for Nato". 9 December) that the UK has neither an independent nor an ethical foreign policy. His "me too-ism" behind the US is becoming automatic. The further expansion of Nato into a US global military force is a dangerous, destabilising policy. China and South Africa, among others, have already voiced strong opposition.

Nuclear-armed Nato has nothing to do with nuclear so-called deterrence, but everything to do with proliferation. By reiterating that nuclear weapons are needed for defence, the nuclear weapons states are creating the ideal climate for proliferation. Thus the decline into further danger this year with India and Pakistani nuclear testing while Israel, Iran and others are stealthily getting on with development.

We need a Nato policy which will contribute to the stability of the world. Backing the German call for a policy of no first use of nuclear weapons would be a sound first step.

RAE STREET
Littleborough, Lancashire

Boats of war

Sir: Leonard Reynolds' account of the wartime activities of Motor Torpedo Boats and Motor Gun Boats in Historical Notes ("Dog boats in the battle of the narrow seas", 7 December) took me back to my treasured copy of *The Bottle of the Narrow Seas* (Country Life, 1945) written by Lt-Cdr Peter Scott (artist son of Scott of the Antarctic and later to become famous for his prowess in sailing and gliding and as the founder of the Slimbridge bird sanctuary) as a history of the Light Coastal Forces in the

Channel and North Sea, 1939-1945.

Scott was himself a Coastal Forces "ace" and commanded a flotilla of steam gunboats (SGBs) which were just long enough to have names (appropriately, Scott's own boat was *Grey Goose*) and which saw action for the first time as part of the naval force for the Dieppe raid in August 1942. The book is graced by his own pen and ink drawings and portraits of fellow officers as well as colour reproductions of some of his wartime watercolour paintings.

Scott makes the point, however, that by March 1944 "the concept of a dual-purpose boat had become universal in Coastal Forces. The distinction between MTB and MGB had been almost entirely removed, all newly constructed boats (being) fitted with torpedoes and guns, and a torpedo armament was added to all but a very few of the oldest MGBs. With only a few exceptions, the official title "MGB" was replaced by "MTB" although "a small number of the oldest D-class boats changed their title but were not converted and found themselves in an anomalous position as MTBs without torpedoes".

GEOFFREY BATTEN
Birmingham

Sir: Commentaries on the latest reduction in interest rates have left me increasingly puzzled by the view that the health of the economy appears to be measured by the size of shop sales over the Christmas period. Do not most people realise that the accumulation of more and more "stuff" does not improve the quality of life? Modest presents accompanied by a happy family atmosphere at home over Christmas are more important. Perhaps an ability and willingness to support the poor and lonely in our society might be a better measure.

JULIET BULLMORE
East Bergholt, Suffolk

Save our coral

Sir: John Prescott's call for a UN body to "tackle the threats to oceans from global warming and pollution" is admirable ("Britain wants UN body to save reefs", 10 December). It is particularly admirable given that one of their first points of call should be the UK.

Recent discoveries have found incredible coral reefs on biogenic mounds below the surface of the north-east Atlantic off the west coast of Scotland. Little is known about these coral habitats and the ecology of the species around them.

However, it is looking increasingly likely that before much more is known about these sites they will be destroyed or degraded as a result of Department of Trade and Industry action. While Mr Prescott is preaching to the UN, his colleague Peter Mandelson is busy licensing the whole of the north-east Atlantic for new oil development.

The new oil developments licensed by the DTI threaten the UK's ocean coral through global warming and pollution. The new oil produced cannot be burned if we are to prevent potentially damaging the coral through

climate change. But long before then, the coral is likely to have been smothered by drill cuttings and polluted by oil spills.

John Prescott should bear in mind that "bringing the message home" means clearing up your own backyard as much as preaching to the international community.
ROB GUETERBOCK
Greenspace UK
London N1

Good intentions

Sir: In all the recent coverage of the anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, I failed to see any reference to the fact that its preamble contains the sentiments and words of the equally pious and well-intentioned Declaration of 24 May 1915, by the entente powers, which promised to punish Turkey for the genocide of the Armenians, and which used such words as "crimes... against humanity and civilisation".

It created the framework of international law for the codifying of "crimes against humanity". It was later used in the Nuremberg Charter (article 6).

It is easy to explain why the

Universal Declaration is no more effective than the 1915 Declaration. Just as Turkey was not punished for its crimes - because the victorious Allies were too busy competing among themselves for the spoils of the defunct Ottoman Empire to care about the genocide of the Armenians - neither will the Universal Declaration be effective as long as nations pick and choose whom they will "punish".

When political expediency comes against moral rectitude, no one will get a prize for guessing which will win. The big and the strong will only pick on the small and the weak. And since it is only the big and the strong who can do anything about violations of human rights, only the small and the weak will be punished.

Pious words and intentions never deterred a killer.
ANDREW KEVORKIAN
London W1

No callous Dean

Sir: May I make some points about the article and headline, "Dean censured for 'callous' sacking", (10 December)? I write as someone who has attended Westminster Abbey during 46 years. I have appreciated Dr Neary's music and would have many positive things to say about the Dean, Dr Wesley Carr.

The word "callous" is neither in Lord Jauncey's report nor in the body of the article as printed.

The first paragraph of the article states that the Dean was reprimanded by a government report for the way in which he dismissed Dr and Mrs Neary. The advice of Lord Jauncey to the Queen is not a government report.

Essentially he had to consider whether the Dean and Chapter (not the Dean alone) were justified in concluding that actions amounting to gross misconduct had occurred.

PETER BOTTOMLEY MP
(Working West, C1
House of Commons
London SW1

Animal wrongs

Sir: Following the furor in the press surrounding the hunger strike of a single animal rights activist, we feel it is important to point out that this tiny minority is far outweighed by the great many animal welfare supporters who are involved in peaceful campaigns against cruelty to animals.

Naturewatch has been democratically lobbying MPs and industry for a Royal Commission into animal experiments for the past three years and has gained the cross-party support of 248 MPs. There are substantial arguments for the establishment of a Royal Commission, which Naturewatch will continue to put forward through legal means.

The violent activities of the extremist animal activists are guaranteed media coverage. Why shouldn't law-abiding campaigning work merit just as much attention?
JOHN RUANE
Director
Naturewatch
Cheltenham,
Gloucestershire

Sir: He was only an animal rights protester, but he chickened out in the end.
MARTIN KYRLE
Eastleigh,
Hampshire

A new NHS

Sir: The letter from Dr Danny Wallace (9 December) reflects the current lack of awareness about the structure, function and future development of NHS Direct. This is understandable as the blueprint for this service is still being developed.

The development of a high-quality nurse triage system of the type used in our NHS Direct pilot will save lives that would otherwise be lost in the current model of healthcare. It will also have a beneficial effect on the outcomes of episodes of acute and chronic illnesses.

The system will offer the tool to integrate emerging primary care and secondary care systems in a way that will help reduce long waits in accident and emergency departments, and will help people to help themselves.

Health education will be improved, as will patients' access to services. By helping patients to consistently get to the right entry point into the health service, waste of professional and patient time will be reduced, to everyone's benefit. This is not wishful thinking but part of an exciting, evidence-based, modernisation program for the NHS.

The NHS methods that have served us well since 1948 may not be the ones to lead us into the next century.
DR KEVIN MCKENNA
Medical Director
NHS Direct Northumbria

Sir: Dr Danny Wallace must live a charmed life down in Devon. Has he ever tried to get through to his GP on the telephone for advice?

As both a consumer and a provider of services within general practice, my experience is that many doctors are only officially available to speak to people on the phone for about half an hour to one hour per day, possibly at a time not convenient for the person ringing in. This assumes you can first get past the efficiently trained receptionist's vetting process. GPs have been required to take on an ever-increasing range of tasks, so they must let go and let others take on certain responsibilities.

Nurses are ideally placed to offer advice on some matters, and to direct people to appropriate help for others.
BRIDGET CLARENCE-SMITH
RGN/RV
London N8

In the pipeline

Sir: Reports say Thames Water are laying off 300 staff. Will that be compulsory redundancies or natural leakage?
WILLIAM F LONG
Loughton, Essex

A half-century of jolly conundrums for Christmas

TODAY WE bring you a Christmas Quiz, but a Christmas Quiz with a difference. All other Christmas quizzes are about the news of the past year, or current events, or general knowledge. This Christmas Quiz is just about Christmas. And you don't have to answer any of the questions...

1. Lord, is it December already?
2. Have we ordered a turkey?
3. You remember what happened last year?
4. Or was it the year before?
5. We don't want to have that happening again, do we?
6. When are we going to get the Christmas tree?
7. You remember what happened last year?

8. When you left it to Christmas Eve?
9. And all the trees had gone?
10. Except for a few about two feet high?
11. And you bought one so small that you put it on the table and said: "Table-top trees are all the rage this year"?
12. And it fell off the table 15 times over Christmas?
13. Pulling the lights out of the socket and shorting the electrics each time?
14. Which reminds me, have we got the tree lights out again this year?
15. What do you mean, you can't remember where you put them?
16. Well, I think we ought to get them out and test them, don't you?

17. Incidentally, are we going to have a Christmas card session soon?
18. Well, are we going to send any this year?
19. Didn't you say that last year?
20. You remember, you said that you weren't going to send any this year, and then you relented and said you ought to send some after all and by that time it was 23 December, which was far too late, but oh no, you would insist on sending loads out even though you knew they wouldn't arrive anywhere until after Christmas, and, in the case of our Australian friends, the New Year...
21. Which reminds me, are we going to accept that invitation from the Wilgoes to drinks on the 23rd?
22. No, not the 22nd, I think it was the 23rd, wasn't it?
23. Where have you put the invitation?
24. I gave it to you, didn't I?



MILES KINGTON
Are we going to accept that invitation from the Wilgoes to drinks on the 23rd?

25. Never mind - were there any cards in the post this morning?
26. Oh, who was it from?
27. What do you mean, you've no idea who it's from?
28. Isn't there a name inside?
29. What do you mean, there are 17 names written inside?
30. And you don't know any of them?
31. Why not read the names out?
32. Who's Terry?
33. Who's Tracey?
34. Who's Ken and Barry and Liz and Jenny and Oscar...
35. Hold on, I don't think we know any of these people at all - isn't this one of those office cards where everyone sits round and signs their names and they all get shot off to

- clients, or in our case, people who used to be clients?
36. Why on earth do they bother?
37. Incidentally, have we got any crackers yet?
38. You remember what happened last year?
39. When we left it so late we never got any?
40. And you found that old box of crackers in the cellar?
41. And produced them triumphantly on Christmas Day?
42. And they were so old, that none of them made a bang?
43. And all the gifts inside the crackers were indoor fireworks, which were so far past their sell-by date that they either didn't go off or exploded dangerously?

44. And all the jokes in the crackers were so old that half were incomprehensible and the other half actionable under the Race Relations Act?
45. Incidentally, have you got anything for making mulled wine with?
46. You remember what happened last year, don't you?
47. When we suddenly decided to make some hot spicy wine?
48. And the only kit we could find was at the back of the kitchen cupboard?
49. And the Best Before date was December 1993?
50. And you said, "Well, let's try it anyway - it can't have gone off that much..." but it had?
Etc. etc. etc.

سكزا من الاربعين

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Now Israel must help Mr Arafat to deliver peace

THE DECISION to revoke clauses in the Palestinian Liberation Organisation's charter, those denying Israel's right to exist, is some cause for celebration. But the semantics involved in getting to this stage, and the debate over the formal vote that was eventually taken, are another depressing reminder of the ground still to be made up in the Middle East peace process.

The clauses the Israelis objected to were indeed offensive. They called for the destruction of a whole nation, the only full democracy in the region, which has as much right to exist as every other state. They were an anachronistic throw-back to the bad old days of confrontation, a thorn in the side of a peace process which should make all sides feel more secure, not less.

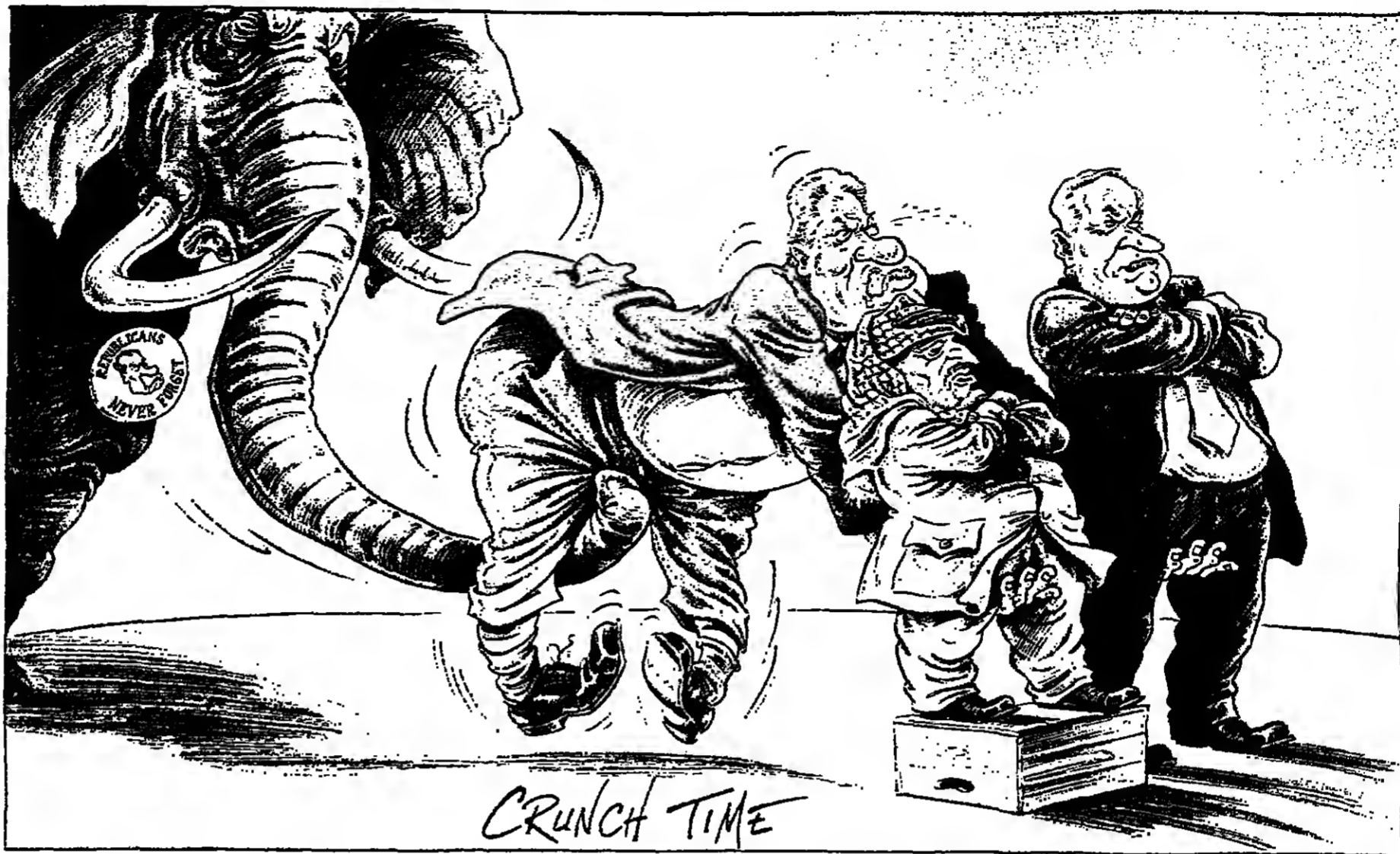
Israel has every right to defend itself by bargaining with the release of prisoners, and yielding up of land, which it agreed to in the Wye accord just weeks ago. But there seems little doubt that Yasser Arafat and the Palestinian National Council, at least, are sincere in renouncing the war of which their charter speaks. The Palestinians' legislative body, the Central Council, had already voted to do just that. The whole process, including the famous Rabin-Arafat handshake in Washington, has always involved an implicit acceptance of the reality of Israel.

This does not mean that explicit repeal means nothing. It is a welcome symbol to an anxious Israeli public, and demonstrates Mr Arafat's ability to shape Palestinian opinion as a whole. The benefits, however, will stop there.

Israelis' real fear - further terrorism on their own soil - will not be lifted. The PLO cannot deliver the end of terrorist violence; it is aimed as much at them and their compromises with the old enemy as it is at the Israelis. Ever since the Palestinian intifada began in 1988 Mr Arafat has exercised a diminishing authority over Palestinians. Now Israel seems to be doing all it can to speed that process.

Mr Netanyahu's ratcheting up of his demands on all and sundry is misguided. He is a man who can sense weakness, and exploit it; now, he perceives Mr Arafat to be ailing, both physically and politically, and is concerned only to make domestic political capital from this advantage. Mr Netanyahu lacks the feel for the historic compromise which would secure Israel's future, unlike an older generation of the Israeli right represented by Begin or Shamir.

His tactical adroitness is not matched by his sense of strategy. He has every right to insist that the Palestinian Authority do everything in its power to stamp out terrorism; but beyond a certain point, turning the screw further will weaken Mr Arafat, and his ability to deliver. That point has now been reached. The Palestinian recognition of Israel is welcome, even if hedged around with doubts; it is up to Mr Netanyahu to see that Israel responds.



An efficiency drive that misses the point

A MUSEUM director was astonished when he attended a meeting with the Prime Minister and the Arts Minister to find that the only word used as an aim was "efficiency".

Efficiency is indeed the prime purpose of Chris Smith's announcement yesterday of a new funding structure for the arts. Stripped of all the current management-speak about increased outputs and aims, what Mr Smith is really doing is reducing the number of bodies through which grants go to the arts, and centralising them.

Nothing wrong with that, although it sits uncomfortably with the Government's other declared aim of devolving power. From an efficiency viewpoint it's probably better to roll the Crafts Council into the Arts Council, to merge English Heritage and the Royal Commission on the His-

torical Monuments of England and to wrap architecture into a new national body. It's also good to see a moderate increase in funding for the new bodies, along with special funds to enable museums to waive charges. The problem is with aims. Efficiency of itself is not much of an ambition, particularly when it concerns so volatile and subjective a field as the arts. Loading into the comprehensive spending review a series of generalisations about excellence and "a duty to future generations" does not help.

Ultimately what matters with arts funding is not structures but people. The first Wilson government is remembered for its commitment to the arts because of Jennie Lee. The Royal Fine Art Commission has established a reputation because its members have proved particularly open and supportive of modern architecture.

Unfortunately, this Government has not been notable for its arts appointments. Chris Smith has been confused and ineffective. Gerry Robinson at the Arts Council and Sir Colin Southgate at the Royal Opera House are both wrong men

in the wrong place - examples of Blair's excessive cronyism to businessmen friendly to his party.

The creation of three new super-quangos is a chance to look hard again at appointments. The public has a right to know how these people are chosen and, more important, what are the targets and contract terms given to them.

Neighbours...

THE NEWS of Sir Bernard Ingham's contretemps with his neighbour, in which a car door may or may not have been dented - and angry words certainly were exchanged - will come as no surprise to a generation of political correspondents. He is used to such confrontations. As the famously combative Mr Ingham might have said, this is all "bunkum and balderdash". Of course, it was much easier when Mr Ingham's famous boss was installed in 10 Downing Street. When the neighbours in No 11 caused trouble, he merely made sure they soon moved away.

Who are these asylum-seeking scum? They're people like my grandparents

MR NICHOLAS van Hoogstraten is - all who know about him agree - a bad man. The milk of human kindness has long since turned rancid somewhere inside the property tycoon's tight waistcoat.

As chronicled in these pages yesterday, Mr van Hoogstraten has graduated from being the nastiest slum landlord of the post-Rachman era, and is now the nastiest landowner of the democratic age. He's the man, the very thin man, what fences the ramblers' way. It's Christmas, and most of us reared on pantomime hope that our hissing will help ensure that he gets his comeuppance.

Like any really good villain, Van Hoogstraten himself is disconcertingly clear about the reasons for his wickedness. He has erected a 7-ft fence and a barn across an ancient right of way (which would bring walkers within eyeshot of his vulgar folly, Hamilton House) because, as he puts it: "The only purpose of great wealth is to separate oneself from the riff-raff."

There have been hints from the millionaire that he may be prepared to use force to defend his land from incursion by middle-aged women wearing sensible shoes. Here we have it: brute force, selfishness and guilt. Mr van Hoogstraten seems to be a one-man proven case for new "right-to-roam" legislation.

Coincidentally, I was reading about l'Affaire d'Hoogstraten while eating my All-Brain and listening to the Today programme, where they were discussing the laws and procedures governing the treatment of asylum-seekers. The Tory spokesmith on

Home Affairs, James Clappison (a full-faced young man, with the colour and demeanour of a country landowner himself), was being pressed on the issue of the many more people coming to this country than are strictly entitled to. Surely, he was asked, this is a major crisis, and something should be done? A Home Office minister followed and assured everyone that, yes, it was serious, and something was being done.

Asylum-seekers, you will recall, occupied one of the few vacant slots in the Queen's Speech, once the intention to reform the Lords had been allowed for. That's because bogus ones are flooding in from Albania and weird republics that didn't exist a decade ago. They're secreting themselves in HGVs and then falling off the backs of lorries in Dover and Hillingdon; they stow away in ships, aircraft, and haywains and the smaller ones, I daresay, hide in duty-free carrier bags. They then have to be put into costly prisons and disused mental hospitals, where they manage simultaneously to live expensively, and in squalor. Almost everyone agrees, as we saw earlier, that it is a serious problem and something must be done.

Well, I don't. Providing that the councils in Dover and Hillingdon are given a bit of extra dosh to help them cope, I think almost nothing should be done. Per capita we receive fewer asylum-seekers than several other European countries, and there are no signs whatsoever that that wonderfully elastic bit of material, the social fabric, is under any terrible strain.

My name, you may have noticed, is



DAVID AARONOVITCH

Almost everyone agrees that immigration is a serious problem and something must be done. Well, I don't

not an old English moniker. My illiterate paternal grandparents, Moishe and Gitel, were two of the 120,000 Jews who came to live in Britain between the early 1880s and the beginning of the First World War. So, every year for three decades, an average of 4,000 East European Jews arrived and settled. Millions more passed through. At about the time that the Aaronovitches landed, the British consul in Riga, in Russian Latvia, gave voice to a familiar concern. Each ship leaving harbour, he said, contained only "160 passengers with passports, but 200 will land in London. The emigrants are supposed to be bound for the USA or South Africa, and might produce vouchers to this effect, but for the most part, these vouchers are a blind and given gratis by emigration agents here."

Naturally, they lived in squalor, prompting *The Times* - in the early years of this century - to run an article entitled, "The Alien Immigrant", in which it claimed that: "The average immigrant is unsanitary in his habits; he is personally unclean."

A Stepney councillor in 1911 commented that "the borough has been inundated by a swarm of people, fifty described as the scum of Central Europe". At this time, Moishe and Gitel were in Stepney, in Cable Street, where my father was later to be born. "Scum" is a very Hoogstraten word, and "inundated" means "swamped". I am third-generation scum; and, I suppose, part of the flood. Not only that, but I am far from sure that my grandparents were directly persecuted themselves by Cossacks or Black Hundreds. I suspect that they were really "economic migrants", part of that dubious tide of people whose object is self-betterment beyond the borders within which they were born. Certainly they could have stayed in Lithuania - hundreds of thousands of Jews did, and were still there in 1941.

The stay-at-home Aaronovitches would, almost certainly, have perished at the hands of the Einsatzgruppen or their local allies, in the first months of the Nazi occupation. I once wondered the same thing aloud in the presence of the then home secretary, Michael Howard, whose own Jewish forebears had come to Britain from Romania. Did this fact not, I asked him, in any way temper his harsh attitude towards asylum seekers in the late 20th century?

His response was one of incomprehension. Was I saying that there should not be immigration laws?

Yes, I think that there should, but I am reluctant about it, not strident. I tell my children, when they ask me, that we are very lucky to live in this country at this time. And they have no trouble in making the small leap of imagination that Mr Howard was not sufficiently agile or willing to make. Which is that there are many out there who wish to do what my grandparents did, and that our morality in seeking too assiduously to prevent them, is suspect. But how long is it before the descendants of immigrants turn, and begin to see things from the Hoogstraten perspective, not as an opportunity for people like them, but as a threat from folk alien to them?

Consider this debate - see Mr Clappison if you will - from the viewpoint of a dynamic, thwarted young Albanian, an intelligent, Slovakian Gypsy, or a bright Mozambican slum-dweller. They look at the world into which they were born, and see large parts closed off against them, as surely as though some selfish, amoral tycoon had built a barn and a fence across their paths. "We were here first," we tell them. "Go away."

What was it that Hoogstraten said? Ah, yes: "The only purpose of great wealth is to separate oneself from the riff-raff."

Well, that's certainly what this country sometimes appears to believe. We want the right to walk past Mr Hoogstraten's mausoleum, but we don't want some ragged bugger from Tirana strolling past ours.

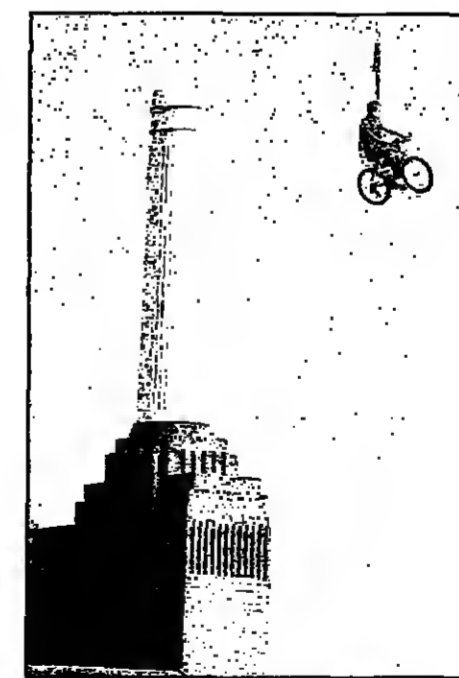
QUOTE OF THE DAY

"This is a window, a window for the peace of the brave, peace with our neighbours."
Yasser Arafat, Palestinian leader

THOUGHT FOR THE DAY

"When ideas fail, words come in handy."
Johann Wolfgang von Goethe, German poet

THE INDEPENDENT PHOTOGRAPH



Bungee Jump by Kalpesh Lathigra
Ref: 00110

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MONITOR

ALL THE NEWS OF THE WORLD

International comment on the weekend's European Union summit in Vienna

THE MAIN result of the summit is that the heads of EU states have given the German EU presidency the task of solving the problems. There should be no problem in formulating an acceptable jobs pact. No other issue has seen so many mostly woolly declarations and promises as employment.

Sueddeutsche Zeitung, Germany

between a common market and a country, so taking on new members is complex. Thousands of laws must be aligned. But the delay also stems from a lack of political will. Poorer countries already in do not want to share their subsidies. Rich countries do not want to take on new burdens.

Washington Post

promise: he will give in if there is compensation for Britain in the domain of agricultural reforms. The British tactic is clear: nothing is given up lightly, and the first demand is

always the highest possible.

Berliner Zeitung, Germany

sidering its backlog of reforms. The German government exacerbated the problems by putting extra issues on the agenda, such as the jobs pact and the question of tax harmonisation.

General-Anzeiger, Germany

dent of the European Council), was already talking big in Vienna. Here he announced that he intends to pretty much solve all the EU's problems before the summit meeting in Cologne next year. He wants to carry through his reforms, solve employment problems, draw up a common safety policy and, on top of all that, his country has to pay less into the communal pot than it has done until now.

Die Presse, Austria

Farewell, couch potato



HAMISH MCRAE

Thanks to ever cheaper and more sophisticated computer services, leisure will become more active

BOUGHT ANY computer kit for Christmas? It is quite difficult not to notice that the pages of the papers at the weekend, including this one, were stuffed with advertisements for computers and related products. And if you have happened to buy a computer recently it is quite difficult not to notice how the price for similar machines seems to have halved in the last year. The computer we bought a year ago for £2,000 now goes for less than £1,000 - and they throw in printers and scanners for free.

That is something else that has changed: the extent to which hardware is given away free, while software can still be quite expensive. In *The Independent* last Saturday they were advertising colour printers at £70, the same price you would pay for a couple of video games. Yet someone has to design and manufacture the printer, put it into a box and ship it around the world. The manufacturing cost of the video game, by contrast, is the few pence needed to stamp out the CD.

It is very hard to make money out of making things; you make money out of the intellectual content of the software. That may be the antics of *Lara Croft* in *Tomb Raider III* or it may be a new programme that translates everything on your computer into French. It doesn't matter.

We have become so accustomed to these tumbling prices for computers that we hardly think about the process. When we do it is usually to complain that they are not coming down even faster. There seems to be some justification in these complaints, for it is quite true that prices in the US are lower still. But all this means is that we are now paying the prices Americans were paying last spring.

We have also become so accustomed to the increasing sophistication of software that we hardly blink when we hear of a new voice-recognition program. In fact we probably complain when it doesn't work very well unless you speak to it in a spoof American accent, which it understands better.

But in regarding as normal this plunge in prices of computer hardware and surge in sophistication of software, we are missing something of profound importance - a process



A bright six-year-old on a computer can find out as much about a subject as the average MP with the resources of the House of Commons library at their disposal PA

that will utterly change our lives. We are glimpsing the early stages of the reversal of a trend that has been running for half a century. We are switching from passive leisure activities to active ones.

For the last 50 years, thanks to ever cheaper and ever more sophisticated television, the tendency has been for leisure activities to become more passive. Now, thanks to ever cheaper and ever more sophisticated computer services, that tendency will be for leisure to become more active.

The wonderful thing about television is that you do not need to be very clever to use it. All you have to do is switch it on. In fact, however clever you are, there is not much you can do with it. You can switch channels and maybe if you are particularly bright you can try to programme the video-recorder. In addition, it is infinitely available: there in the room, ready to be used at no marginal cost. But essentially it is passive, and because it is so powerful a medium, absorbing three or four hours a day, it has sucked much of our leisure time from other, more active pursuits.

Now, quite suddenly, it has a serious challenger: the ever cheaper and ever more capable computer. The cost of a computer is no longer a barrier: in real terms a mid-range computer is now cheaper than a mid-range TV set was 10 years ago. Soon it will be cheaper. While internet access will become cheaper than the price of a TV licence. Like the TV, the PC is in the home, convenient for immediate use. But unlike the case with a TV set, to use it you have to be active.

The boxes look similar, but people use TV and PCs in completely different ways. They sit in different rooms; we sit different distances from them; we do completely different things with them. You have to do something all the time to make a computer work - play a game, send an e-mail, look up flights on the Internet, write a column for a newspaper.

But time spent on a computer is time not available for watching TV. Television-watching is falling in homes with computers and falling faster in homes where there is also internet access. The leisure medium that seemed to sweep all before it (and which itself is seeking a great leap forward with digitalisation) is starting a long, slow, gradual retreat. It is not going to disappear; but in

relative terms it will become progressively less important.

It is very hard, in the early stages of some great social change, to see clearly the full implications of that change. In any case the rise of the PC (and in particular PCs connected through the Internet) is only one aspect of a more general trend towards active leisure activities rather than passive ones. The number of restaurants is rising: more money is being spent on holidays. But the rise of the computer has the greatest social implications. Here are some guesses at what these might be.

First, the next generation of young adults will be both extremely dextrous and extremely adept at gathering and manipulating information. They will have had hours of training (thanks to computer games) in eye/hand/keyboard co-ordination. And they will have had access to the global library of the Internet, plus all the various online or on-disk encyclopaedias. *Encyclopaedia Britannica* was thrown in for free, along with the free printer and the free scanner. In one of those ads in Saturday's paper.)

Second, we will have a generation of very well educated people - on

average much better educated than their parents.

However, the level of education will be very much self-determined, for education is becoming a bottom-up, demand-driven activity, rather than a top-down, supply-driven one. In the old days, to be well educated you had to be lucky enough to be well taught; increasingly you will need to be bright enough to use computers to teach yourself.

That leads to a third and more worrying probability. Some people will be excluded by the new technology, either because they don't have access to a computer, or because they lack the basic skills to use the kit. (I write as somebody who spent 15 minutes last night trying to programme a number into a cordless phone, before I gave up in disgust.)

Fourth - and leading on from my third guess - societies will become skill-differentiated rather than nationally-differentiated. Clever people in a country like Britain will find they have much in common with similarly educated people everywhere else in the world, while less clever people here will find themselves squeezed out of jobs by brighter people on the other side of the world.

Fifth, this democratisation of knowledge - the fact that anyone with a terminal can gain access to high-quality information - will tend to reduce the power of elites, particularly political elites, everywhere. A really bright six-year-old hitting a computer can, with a bit of help, find out as much about a subject as a typical MP, despite the latter having all the resources of the House of Commons library. That is not meant to be a sneer at the intellectual capacity of our MPs, simply a comment on the fact that the comparative advantage of having a big research department will become much smaller, relative to the comparative advantage of having a good mind.

I can't pretend to be able to see clearly where this democratisation of knowledge will lead society. I am sure that it is as important a change as the spread of compulsory, state-funded education in the last century. And I'm sure, too, that having people using their leisure actively is more likely to lead to a fulfilled and balanced society than to one where leisure is largely passive. That holds true even if the activity consists of zapping away on some computer game.

RIGHT OF REPLY

ANTONY WORRALL THOMPSON



The television cook and restaurateur responds to John Walsh's attack on celebrity chefs

JOHN WALSH'S article ("A real kitchen sink drama") appears to jump on the current bandwagon of knocking TV chefs. Walsh says: "The world of the TV chef is one of deadly competition, with no room for compromise."

Unfortunately, apart from a misquoted spat between Gary Rhodes and Delia Smith, the article fails to identify any argumentative TV chef.

I should point out that there is a difference between Michelin-starred chefs and TV chefs. All the in-fighting chefs Walsh named are the Michelin variety. Tom Aiken (*Pied à Terre*), Nico Ladenis (*Chez Nico*), Marco Pierre White (*The Oak Room* etc), and Michel Roux Jr (*Le Gavroche*) have only a smattering of TV appearances between them.

The Michelin-driven chef is a breed apart, operating a temple of gastronomy, and desperately seeking his holy grail - three Michelin stars. This, I am sure, can create a certain degree of competitiveness, although I have yet to experience "the dyspeptic condemnation of their rivals". The Michelin chef is unique; please don't judge all chefs by the same yardstick.

TV chefs are a pretty laid-back bunch. We are not interested, for TV purposes, in creating Michelin-style food. Cooking should be fun, and should not be attempted if you are feeling uptight. No longer is it an essential chore; you should do it because you enjoy it. Supermarket ERM's (home replacement meals), ready-made meals to you and me, have taken away the drudgery of cooking. If you don't enjoy cooking, you just need a microwave oven.

Most TV chefs are good chums. Friendly rivalries exist, but I don't know anyone who jumps about just because Delia's got a new series. No, we are all quite civilised, and enjoy each other's company.

At last, the truth about George

I HAVE lost count of the number of times I must have settled down to read about George Eliot's life and then got bored. Although Eliot's life was far from boring, biographers often tend to bogged down in the religious disputes that dominated her youth. Then they tie themselves in knots trying to be tactful about her physical ugliness and the intricacies of her social and sexual meanderings.

Here at last, though, is an immensely readable, clear-sighted account of this remarkable novelist's free-wheeling life. Kathryn Hughes, indeed, is so unafraid of trespassing into tricky territory that her interest becomes, at times, unashamedly voyeuristic. This is a healthy and thrilling corrective to all that earlier delicacy and obfuscation. The scale of the hypocrisy Hughes exposes is breathtaking, and the intelligent gusto with which she performs her task is refreshing and delightful.

Queen Victoria and Mary Ann Evans were born within six months of each other in 1819. At neither birth



TUESDAY BOOK

GEORGE ELIOT: THE LAST VICTORIAN
BY KATHRYN HUGHES, FOURTH ESTATE, £20

could their future importance have been predicted. Yet Victoria was destined to give her name to the century and embody the respectable values of the times. The other girl, using the disturbing male pseudonym of George Eliot, would come to represent the very opposite: "One gave her name to virtuous repression, a rigid channelling of desire into the safe haven of marriage and family. The other, made wickeder by male disguise, became a symbol of the fallen woman, banished to the edges of society."

Hughes sets up this conventional view and then, with typical panache, dismisses it as "bluster". She goes on to detail the surprising number of parallels between the two lives: "When

it came to men, both clung with the hunger of children rather than the secure attachment of grown women... And when both men died before them, their widows fell into an extended stupor which recalled the despair of an abandoned baby." Queen Victoria and George Eliot would later form unlikely attachments, and in both cases "menopausal readiness was slyly invoked as the reason for these ludicrous liaisons".

Young Mary Ann Evans cut such an embarrassing dash that it is hardly surprising earlier biographers attempted to gloss over her absurd behaviour. In her devout youth, she was ridiculously over-zealous: "During these years she started a clothing club, organised bazaars, ran a Sunday school and visited the local workhouse... 'We shall never have another Mary Ann Evans' was the ambiguous lament of those on the receiving end of her charity when she left Coventry in 1841."

She embarked on a vast, Casaubon-like project to create a chart laying out the history of the Church from the birth of Christ to the Reformation. She would go to parties and make a ridiculous spectacle of her puritanism: "She looked on from the sidelines while the other guests danced, chatted and flirted. Battling with an urge to surrender to the rhythm of the music and also, perhaps, to be the centre of attention, she took refuge first in a headache, then in an attack of screaming hysterics." Far from being embarrassed by her own antics, she described it all in vivid detail in a letter,



Trevyn McDowell and Douglas Hodge in the BBC's 'Middlemarch'

since "her shouting and weeping attested to her holiness".

This preposterous religiosity was later matched by the embarrassing zeal and blindness with which George Eliot threw herself at a series of married men. She had an unerring ability to gravitate towards unconventional menages, and Hughes never teases our curiosity unless it can't be helped. There is no shortage of detail about many relationships in her life. The publisher, John Chapman, for instance, obligingly kept a detailed diary in which he lovingly noted which of the women he kept in his household he had slept with, and recorded the rows he delighted in provoking between them.

The most shocking part of the book is the description of the treatment meted out to Marian Evans, as she was then known, when she started living with the married George Henry Lewes - who made the mistake of condoning his wife's affair with another man. He had allowed himself to be

named on the birth certificate as the father of a child of this liaison. This legality made divorce impossible for him. Although this had little impact on Lewes's own life, it put Mary Ann Evans (as she styled herself beyond the bounds of acceptability. Ironically, this coincided with the beginning of her career as a novelist and probably forced her to concentrate on writing fiction rather than gadding about.

The biography is beautifully written. A chapter beginning "Having waited fifteen years to start writing fiction, it was excruciating to have to put it off for three weeks longer..." is typical of the wit and perspicacity of the whole. But I never did find out what makes George Eliot "the last Victorian" - a phrase that appears to have been lifted out of its context in the final paragraph. I would have ventured a few paragraphs back and extracted the phrase "an extraordinary paradox". For there is much that is extraordinary, and paradoxical, in this book.

CHARLOTTE CORY

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This poem comes from David Wheatley's first collection, 'Thirst' (Gallery Press, Loughcrew, Oldcastle, Co. Meath, Ireland; £6.95)

Bring out your daughters



Time was when girls would rather die than party with Mum. Not now, though. As Ann Treneman told her daughter as she dragged her kicking and screaming into the night

My editor says that I must go to a party with my 16-year-old daughter. I look at her as if she is crazy. The last party I went to with Gillian was nerve-racking. It is the only time that I have actually wanted there to be name-tags, so I could just put "Under-Age" on hers. Perhaps this would have stopped all those men who kept asking her how "uni" was going. "GCSEs." "Too young!" Instead, of course, I smiled and waited for the drinks tray. The pattern was set. Gillian had a brilliant time. I did not.

My editor is not impressed. Daughters, she says, are the hot party accessory of the season. Who says? *Vogue*, as it turns out. "It will be fun," she tells me. "You will be just like Jerry Hall." Obviously, I say. Later I find myself saying to Gillian: "We will be just like Jerry Hall and her daughter Elizabeth." Gillian looks at me, turns on her heel, and walks into her room.

I take that as a "yes" and start organising. I suggest a literary soirée. "Salman Rushdie will be there," I say. "And maybe even Boh Geldof." Gillian looks at me, turns and walks into her room. Event after event receives this treatment. Finally I realise that only pop stars or supermodels will do. "What about the *Smash Hits* party?" I ask. "REALLY? YES! COOL!!!" she cries and runs into her room, only to return a minute later to ask whether she should cut all the Top Shop labels out of her clothes.

Pre-party preparations Sunday dawn, and the party mood is elusive. I have to fight the hordes at Sainsbury's as the only food in the house is a limp lettuce and some self-date-expired yoghurt. Plus I have to find a Christmas tree. I wonder briefly whether it would be easier to grow one myself. After a decade, I would never have to do this again. I rush around like a loony. Gillian tells me not to be late and asks if I'm wearing nail polish. At 1pm I drag out of the car the misshapen tree, which is already losing needles. By 1.30pm I am ready for the party which I will have to attend without nail polish. Sadly.

I've asked Gillian to keep a diary. This is her first entry. "It's the day. I'm looking forward to it even if I'm going with my mum. The first thing

she said was 'Will Who?' The fact that she doesn't even know who Will Smith is leads me to believe I may have to spend the party telling her who they all are. Oh well. Better go, I've just smudged my nail polish!"

On the way, Gillian tells me that I cannot call her anything other than Gillian. No "honey-bun" or "darling" or "pumpkin". I tell her that I'm sure Jerry Hall does not have to operate under such instructions. Gillian tells me that her art teacher says that we should never compare ourselves to anyone, that each one of us is unique and that competition leads to unhappiness. This shuts me up.

The party The London Arena is full of kids dressed for a gym work-out. Gillian says we have to go to the loo and immediately heads for the men's. "Is it normal to go to the men's?" I ask, thinking of all those theatre intervals where all of us women wait, meekly, for half an hour while the men just whip in and out of their loo. "Oh, yes," she says. "Especially if there is a queue." Amazing. This is *Gill Power* in action.

The Arena is a zoo inside. "I may be the oldest person here," I say to Gillian. She looks around and says: "I may be the oldest person here." We sit or, more accurately, vibrate in our seats to the stomping of zillions of teenyboppers. Gillian stands up but doesn't jump up and down. Or scream. Thank God. She has to tell me who all the performers are. "B-Witched," she writes on my pad, rolling her eyes. "Sive," she writes. Five of what? I ask. "THEMI!" she shouts in my ear. I look. It's a group. I feel dreadful. This is middle age. I am not having fun.

Gillian is. "It's begun!" she writes. "There is non-stop screaming. Warm-up guys are whipping us into a frenzy. I'm trying to stay cool. TV madness begins. Every time the overhead camera sweeps over everyone screams, including me. Mum is looking very puzzled when I take the stage. I start dancing. Mum is sitting down. I promptly stop. I feel a nightmare coming on."

My next memory is of hearing a voice that I recognise. "Meatloaf!" I shout. Gillian ignores me. "My Meatloaf!" I cry, seeing the man who always looks as if he is impersonating a refrigerator on stage. Gillian says she feels as if she is in the Twilight Zone. I have no idea what she is talking about. The photographer arrives to take our photo, which I

absolutely hate and which Gillian absolutely loves. She writes: "Everyone is rushing to stand next to me. Instant popularity at the flash of the button. I should always accessorise in this way. Photo-session continues while my favourite group comes on. Another Level. I nearly faint when I see Dane. How uncool am I?"

At the time I didn't realise why Gillian kept going on about going to another level. Now I know. Oh well, by this time the event had lapsed into one long screaming session. The boy groups are all wearing calf-length leather coats. Do they think they are in a James Bond movie? Or perhaps appearing with Sly and the Family Stone? One group wears all black, another all white. They walk around in a circle, their coats billowing.

Billie - whom I do recognise - is crowned the Princess of Pop. She is wearing a Heidi costume. Gillian is looking tired. I ask her if she is enjoying herself. She says that she hates Aqua-Yuck. My first thought is of toothpaste but by now I realise that this must be a band.

The party is saved when I hear a familiar tune. "Tragedy!" Seventies disco! YES! I jump out of my seat. I definitely know the hand-signals to this one. Or at least I know the hand-signals. I learnt in 1979. I see from Gillian's diary that this was too much. "I am very embarrassed," she writes, "and hide it by swaying."

The aftermath We head to the car. Everyone is smiling, and wearing those shoes which appear to be attached to mini-trampolines. I am not smiling, because my head hurts. Gillian can have the last word. After all, it was her party. "It's all over! Mum looks like she's been through a nightmare. Everybody is screaming at the stars leaving in their limos. I'm not a fanatical person, so I walk to the car. I point out to Mum that Jerry Hall's kids never have to sit in the back and endure Marvin Gaye all the way home."



Above left: Goldie Hawn with her daughter Katie Hudson. Left: Ivana Trump and Ivanka



Above: Jerry Hall and Elizabeth Jagger. Below: Twiggy and Carly Whitney. All Action; Richard Young; FNP; Tom Craig



When money's too tight to mention

Red phone bills and raised voices, but Ian's real problem is the nightlife - or lack of it. By Cayte Williams

LEONA
studying Maths

RACHAEL
studying Art History

ROSIE
studying French

DAVID
studying Management

TASH
studying Management

ALISTAIR
studying Management

DANI
studying Biology

IAN
studying Geography

ROBBIE
studying Economics

THE M-WORD has been a pre-occupation with the students this week. Money, the stuff that makes the world go round, is spinning a bit out of control. For a start, they haven't paid the telephone bill and the red version's been sitting on the hall table for a dangerous amount of time.

It's not that no one wants to pay it. It's just a case of high-lighter-pen paralysis. As anyone who's ever lived with nine people and one telephone will know, working out the bill is horrendous. It's a laborious process where each person highlights their calls, initials them and argues about the ones left over. The process can take months.

Ian, by sheer force of will, has got most of the house to work out what they owe and write their cheques. "It's only Leona who hasn't, and I've told her enough times," he says. "As soon as she works out what she owes, we can send off the cheques."

Ian, the no-nonsense Yorkshire boy, has had rather a week of straight-talking. Not only has he told Leona off but he and Rachael have not been seeing eye-to-eye. "About two days ago I'd just come back from work and she was in the living room going on and on about the landlord," he explains. "I started shouting at her and stuff. I said: 'I've got enough to worry about, and where I live is the last thing on my mind.' The house isn't bad, you know, but now it's all become worse."

The landlord seems to be getting his revenge on the stu-

THIS STUDENT LIFE



WEEK 8 AT THE MANCHESTER STUDENT HOUSE

dents, the only way that landlords can. "He's sending the estate agent around to check the state of the place, and if it's not right, he's going to charge us £100 for professional cleaners," says Ian. "And now the council tax people have been around because he's grassed us up. He was so nice at the beginning but now he's going against everything we do. I know Rachael had good intentions, but she took it too far." The irony of it all is not wasted on Rachael, who only really wanted value for money. "I'm thinking of moving out," she says, "but I wouldn't go until everyone was safe here." Ian is full of remorse. "I really regretted the argument afterwards," he admits, "and Rachael's been very touchy



Saturday night in Peruvia: 'Cheesy music for rich folk,' says Ian Martin Rickett

since." Everyone else has kept their distance from the landlord problem as they know Rachael is doing her best, but no one feels the pressures of earning money more than Ian. Still, a nice little group outing on Saturday night was a great comfort. Peruvia, Manchester's swankiest club, proved that money might buy you a nice house, but it can't furnish you with taste in music. "It was cheesy music for rich people," says Ian in disgust. "I'd never been to a place like that before. It was more like a hotel than a nightclub." David even dyed his hair orange and sprayed it with glitter, but then he was expecting to have a little more fun than the Gucci-clad crowd allowed. "It was ridiculously posy,"

he exclaims. "You could smell the money. I'd never go back again. The blokes all looked like body builders, the women were gorgeous, and the music was rubbish." Peruvia is home to Manchester United footballers, models and soap stars. As far as our students are concerned, they can keep it. Unfortunately, there's not much choice in Manchester. It was the clubbing legend, The Hacienda, that gave the city its reputation as a nightclub capital, but now there are few good places to go. "That is because of the Moss Side and Cheatham Hill gangs," explains Robbie. "The gang culture got to the clubs which were then closed down because of guns and drugs. Now everyone goes to Liver-

pool, Leeds and Sheffield. Manchester still has a reputation as club heaven, but it's just not true any more."

In fact, the city is crying out for someone decent that doesn't cost an arm and a leg. Which leads us on to Dave's new project. Like Alistair, he's turning into a Student Entrepreneur. "My friend Tom and I have formed a club promotions company called Cosmic Hole," he says proudly, "and we're doing our first themed night at Elemental, one of the few new clubs in Manchester, on Wednesday. It's called Mistletoe Madness and vodka, peach schnapps, Bacardi and tequila will all be a pound."

Everyone hopes it will be a success. At least he'll be quicker at paying the phone bill.

THE JOYS OF MODERN LIFE

24. COFFEE BY LAURA THOMPSON

I CAN go on the equivalent of a pub crawl, in which caffeine replaces alcohol as the wicked stimulant, by walking the short distance between my flat and Notting Hill Gate. Start at Cullens with two nice, smooth café lattes, followed up by an espresso at Maison Blanc. Now on to the heavy stuff.

At Starbucks, a tall, skinny capp with extra froth and cinnamon topping. At Coffee Republic, a grande iced semi-mocha plus shot of caramel syrup. Finally, at the Seattle Coffee House, a triple goliath macchiato with banana-flavoured Nesquik and a cocktail umbrella. Here, shuddering like a plugged-in Black and Decker, I raise my brimming paper cup and toast those brave pioneers who believed that not everyone in Britain is obsessed with PG Tips.

It is hard, for a coffee-lover, to imagine life without these magnificent establishments. Yet only a few years ago a cappuccino was regarded as a suspect foreign confection and the British drank Mellow Birds for their evenings.

Those were the days of "coffee shops", in which the coffee tasted of groats, of a half-teaspoon of Nescafé dissolved in parboiled water. Of liquidised Terry's All Gold coffee creams mixed with gravy granules...



Then, of course, you went abroad. On the Champs-Élysées you tasted rich, hot brews, dark and full-bodied as Beatrice Dalle. In the Piazza Navona you played excitedly with the foam on a cappuccino; at Florian's you

swooned at the wonderfully adult milkshake that is the caffè latte. In New York, you drank the most delicious concoction known to man: the iced and creamy frappuccino. Admittedly each of these cost about a fiver, but my God, was it worth it. You returned to Britain sneering and despairing.

Of course, sophisticates have always complained about our coffee. In literature, cosmopolitan types such as Hercule Poirot bewail the "muddy liquid" offered to them. But people put up with it, presumably because tea was the stuff of life and coffee merely an exotic aside; the idea that it might taste sublime was unknown.

Closer ties with Europe, foreign travel and *Fraser* have all played their part in giving me my morning café crawl. Nor is this just a city phenomenon: the best cappuccino in Europe - and I write as an independent expert, with all the jitters to prove it - can be drunk at Luigi's of Leighton Buzzard. So why does coffee on the Eurostar taste like something made by Mrs Overall?

Since 1972, the Alternative Miss World has mocked the original pageant, while celebrating the brave, the bizarre and the beautiful. It's an extravaganza of style, sex and cheap sensation. And Judith Palmer took part

More wardrobe than Ikea

I've spent 300 hours making these," sighs Burnel, trying to ease a 20-ft padded appliqué Christmas pudding over his head. "Now I've got flu, and a little piece of glitter stuck under my eyelid," he adds tearfully. "There's just no space, backstage, and by the time you've squeezed past everyone to get on stage, all your costumes are completely ruined."

Last year, Burnel (known among the world of clubland costumiers as "Transformer") achieved a certain notoriety as Miss Moneybags, standing against Martin Bell and Neil Hamilton at Tattoo in the general election. Tonight, he's squished into the vestry of a high camp neo-Gothic church in east London, in the hope of retaining his title as the reigning Alternative Miss World.

Created by Andrew Logan, a sculptor-jeweller, in 1972, the Alternative Miss World Contest is an occasional spectacle of costumely ingenuity and performing brilliance, teasing out the talents of drag queens, artists, fashion designers and sundry folk of large personality in a gigantic, surreal art event said to have been modelled more on Crufts than on the Eric and Julia beauty pageant. That didn't stop the original Miss World organisation from serving Logan an injunction in 1979. Lord Denning wisely decided in Logan's favour, suggesting it was unlikely that anyone was in any danger of confusing the two events.

Logan's ruder, spardier and wittier alternative does, however, share the same sections of daytime swimwear and eveningwear, with catwalk promenades plus personality interview. Open to contestants of either gender, it's been won only once by a woman (Jenny Runacre, Miss National Geographic, 1986). It has, though, been won by a robot (Bruce Lacey's Miss Rosa Bosom, 1985), and, in 1975, by Derek Jarman as Miss Crêpe Suzette.

"It's to do with what you can create, rather than how you were created," explains a first-time contestant, Piers Atkinson (assistant to designer Zandra Rhodes in his day job). "You can take beauty into your own hands," he explains, unsparing a clump of black wig from his severe, plug-hole-shaped swimwear outfit. "I presented the orb to the winner last year," he confides, describing Burnel's previous flaming triumph as Joan of Arc, "so I'm hoping I took off that energy."

"Get back!" screeches a stage manager, grabbing a megaphone. "Big cossie coming through!" Number 18, gold-painted Miss Natasha Narcotica (Anna Zolotuhina, a young theatrical costume maker) is attempting to negotiate the cage of her huge wicker crinoline tail through a very small door. The wafts of frankincense billowing round her opium-poppo-decorated dragon's head have stopped her noticing the twin obstacles up ahead of a Mad Max warrior wielding a pointy metal weapon (made, I hazard to deduce, from a Philippe Starck lemon squeezer) and an act-



Amy Lamé, and contestants (including, bottom right, Judith Palmer) at the Alternative Miss World



Emma Boom

was a matter of what you could do with what you had in your wardrobe, and a packet of crêpe paper. In 1981 we were in the Grand Hall in Olympia, when the contest was won by Miss Aldershot (Michael Haynes). He was supported by the BBC Chorus and the band of the Irish Guards. And now, of course, there are all these Russians..."

There are five Russian entrants (plus one Finn and one Irishman) among the 22 contestants. Like everyone else, they are responsible for all their own travel and costume costs. This unlikely invasion is largely due to the prior success of Andrey Bartenev, a Siberian avant-garde artist (and reigning runner-up). Bartenev, who does not believe in travelling light, has come with eight wooden crates full of giant papier-mâché wearable objects. Miss Help Russia is, like many, no single person, but a team tableau. Beachwear involves four rigid 8-ft mummy-cases, painted like demonic jelly babies and stuffed with bouncing claustrophobes; for daywear a sublimely gorgeous 24-year-old cartoonist called Volodya is strapped on all fours into a scale model of the Kremlin; when eveningwear calls, Bartenev himself staggers out under a blue-and-red, butterfly-winged construction, studded with cigarette-puffing lips.

"To work with Bartenev, you need courage, happiness and a clear mind," grins Volodya, as a buckle catches his nipple. The costumes are hysterically funny and radiantly colourful, but have not been selected for ease of movement, and need on-stage helpers to stop them from toppling over. This is why I now find myself prancing up the runway towards the judges (who include Brian Eno and Anita Roddick) trussed up in a blue Cellophane cosmonaut outfit, wielding a heavy, star-topped staff in one hand while supporting Bartenev's codpiece in the other.

Dignified, dukes, dressed in his traditional half-male, half-female robes, Logan brings on the shimmering crown jewels... and awards them to the grinning 4-ft-tall 75-year-old from Moscow, Miss Paul Bronya.

"I was looking for something sexy and funny at the same time - that's the biggest turn-on of all," explains the judge, Maggi Hambling. "But that extraordinary grande dame signified everything best in the human spirit. That's what the Alternative Miss World is all about. Joy."

The next Alternative Miss World is due in 2001

Sadly second rate

CLASSICAL
CHARLES IVES
BOURNEMOUTH SO
POOLE

THE INDISPOSITION of Kees Bakels, the Dutch chief guest conductor of the Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra for the last 10 years, created more of a problem than usual in Poole on Wednesday, since the programme - repeated in Exeter and Portsmouth on Thursday and Friday - included Charles Ives's *Second Symphony*.

This early, delightful amalgam of Brahms and Dvorak, with American tunes steadily stirred into the mixture to make it rise to some glorious moments of mayhem, is repertoire material in its home country, but I can't recall ever hearing it in concert here. Richard Bernas - American, and known chiefly as a conductor of contemporary music - bravely took on the full programme as advertised.

An all-Beethoven first half didn't get things off to a good start. A raw and rhythmically rocky "Namensfeier" Overture was followed by the *Violin Concerto*, in which the soloist was the young, upcoming German, Isabelle Faust. She's an extremely efficient player, though suffering from a certain inflexibility of tone and occasional intonational lapses. On this showing, Faust lacks the ability to phrase characterfully, or to engage the listener from moment to moment, or with much feeling for overall structure.

In the Ives, the BSO's sometimes rough-and-ready sound, from the strings in particular, gave a not inappropriately elemental edge to the proceedings. Bernas shaped this five-movement, quite complex symphony with real finesse, too, building powerfully towards the zany climaxes of the second movement which had an explosive impact.

While such imaginative programming is to be commended, music by living composers plays a sadly small part in this year's main season. All the more welcome, then, is Kokoro, a 20th-century ensemble which is the initiative of the percussionist Kevin Field and some of his fellow performers. The group's late-night concert on Wednesday included alert, performances of Stravinsky's *Septet* and Ravel's "Introduction and Allegro" and, sensibly imitating Birmingham's scheme of commissions paid for by members of the audience, the premiere of Colin Riley's evocative "Taking Leaves".

Despite the BSO's stabilisation grant from the Arts Council, the abandonment of the ambitious plans for a regular new venue in Bristol has led to the departure of Anthony Woodcock, the orchestra's managing director, for the US. Yakov Kreizberg, the principal conductor who is currently "on sabbatical", is also missed. Right now, it has to be admitted that the BSO doesn't sound like the orchestra with international potential that he has steered for the past three years.

KEITH POTTER

Into the swing with five-star Cinders

"COME ON then - get it all out of your system," jeers Brian Prothero's wicked stepmother at the hissing audience. Here, they don't need much encouragement in that department - which is why it is such a great place to see a pantomime.

They were selling toy swords and magic wands in the front of house, and even before the proceedings proper had started, one little boy was seen devotedly bashing his weapon over the head of the drummer in the pit. The heckles have a good-humoured, almost free-associative

THEATRE
CINDERELLA
THEATRE ROYAL
STRAATFORD EAST
LONDON

abandon. While *Cinders*'s nasty step-sisters, Cloaca and Lymphida, were getting dressed up for the ball, a girl sitting behind me yelled: "You are ugly! You are ugly! You are ugly!... actually, I like that frock."

So if the audience gets a five-star rating, what about the rest of the

entertainment? Witty scripted by David Cregan, with lots of catchy, kidding songs by the versatile Mr Prothero, Stratford's *Cinderella* is a joy. In this version, it's really Dean Maynard's tall clump of a Prince who creates the initial miserable existence for Fiona Wade's ravishing heroine. Forever galloping around on his bobby-horse in search of the "less fortunate" ("Hello, are you one of the less fortunate?"), he inflicts his fatuous philanthropy on *Cinderella*'s family by arranging a marriage of financial convenience between her

dim, hard-up father and Prothero's Mrs Joy De Palma. A monster with leopard-skin trimmings, she makes much use of a travelling punishment-cupboard with a silence lever: Will BGP (ie "boy and girl power") be able to sing fit to blast *Cinders* out of this prison so that she can try on the glass slipper? The only surprise, given the intensity of the response, is that the cast don't end up having to extricate shattered slipper from their wigs.

The show has across-the-board charm. Parents like myself who, unhinged by the current craze, have

even begun to dream about Yo-Yo, should be warned that you can't get away from them here. Is there a Buttons throughout the land this year who is not wielding one of these harrowing toys? But then I doubt there is a Buttons in the land half as winning and unsoppy as Paul Keating, who delivers the deftly daft songs "If the sky is falling in/ And you are as miserable as sin/ 'Cos you've lost your kiwi and kin/ Skip a bit and smile" with a lovely impudence.

There's audience participation, a radiant Fairy Godmother (Debra

Michaelis) who has been told by Head Office to restrict her magical assistance to those who are "darn near dead", and a very funny Royal Family who launch into a riotous rock'n'roll extravaganza when they decide to throw a party - the ancestral portraits on the wall behind them getting into the swing of things too. *Cinders* does, of course, get to the ball. And you will have a ball. You will! Oh yes, you will!

PAUL TAYLOR

Tb 23 Jan (0181-534 0310)

Blazing into colour

IT'S AN indication of the difference in popularity, still, between Bruckner and Mahler that far fewer people turned up for this performance of Bruckner's seventh symphony than attended the New Queen's Hall Orchestra's recent Mahler sixth. Which is a pity, as the Bruckner provided a very different, but equally fascinating chance to experience the virtues of "period" performance of late Romantic orchestral music. Mahler's dramatically coloured scores present wooden flutes, narrow-bore brass, hide-headed drums etc. in a highly exposed way, whereas with Bruckner the effect was more subtle - like an old, fine-detailed, sepia-tone photograph brought to life. The rich, warm sound of gut strings was evident from the measured opening theme, while the first climax made it clear this was to be an interpretation where intensity rather than sheer brute force held sway. Great sounding chords recalled a Bruckner's beloved cathedral organ, and sharp, clear woodwind bit through the sur-

CLASSICAL
NEW QUEEN'S HALL ORCHESTRA
BARBICAN CENTRE
LONDON

rounding textures to very striking effect.

Here, as elsewhere in the symphony, attacks were not always perfect, and conductor Wyn Morris's elasticity of tempo was slightly disconcerting, if exciting, in the final peroration. But the performance grew in stature as it unfolded - for the glorious adagio in memory of Wagner the bass tuba player crossed the stage to join a quartet of Wagner-tubas (made for Sir Henry Wood in 1892 and played here for the first time since the Twenties) to magnificent effect. The focused tuba sound, together with the long, sweeping melodies, brought this movement to life, and the final climax and coda of infinite regret was mesmerising.

Morris chose a rather deliberate tempo for the scherzo, but what was especially pleasing was the warmth of

the nostalgic trio section. The finale - a difficult, episodic movement - got off to a scintillating start, with lucid woodwind standing out again. The added depth and deep resonance of the Wagner-tubas joined with the other brass to enhance the effect of contrasting "choirs", and echoes of the great Johann Sebastian were in the air, as the sepia photograph blazed into colour in the resplendent and noble conclusion of this utterly monumental work.

In Strauss's First Horn Concerto, the soloist Roger Montgomery bravely took on some fiendishly difficult music with a 110-year-old, genuinely French, horn. After a false start and some technical adjustments he responded well to the tuneful material, with a pleasingly lyrical quality in the quieter passages. In comparison to the modern horn the more virtuosic passages seemed to lack power and brilliance, but the experience was thoroughly stimulating and received with warm applause.

LAURENCE HUGHES

Stand by your scarecrow

THEATRE
THE WIZARD OF OZ
WATERMILL THEATRE
NEWBURY

FIRST PUBLISHED in 1900, L. Frank Baum's wonderland tale fixed the image of a yellow-brick road, snaking its way through unspoilt expanses towards the wish-fulfilling towers of the Emerald city. It could be seen as one of the greatest advertisements for highway construction of all time, or a pedestrian zone like no other. However, John Doyle's joyful stage version of the movie appears reluctant to rub salt into local wounds opened by the notorious building of the local bypass. His yellow-brick road is closer to a strip of imitation yellow-brick matting.

Meg Surrey's understated design (a wall-to-wall skyscape, untroubled by the merest hint of tornado-spun Kansas farmstead) can be partly attributed to the Watermill's acting area, which isn't big enough to swing a munchkin in Doyle's aesthetic carefully sidesteps the movie's more troublesome visual elements. This Dorothy's Oz is remarkably similar to the rural back-of-beyond she has just left. The Wicked Witch of the West is no broomstick-thin

harridan but a buxom cowgirl, clad in black from stetson to knee-high boot, with a pair of revolvers slung suggestively around the navel. The Sorceress of the South (very Tammy Wynette) in a white-jean number and a Statue-of-Liberty-style headpiece comes armed with a hicksville drawl and a wholesome smile. The Scarecrow, Tin Man and Lion resemble overalled farmhands in half fancy-dress, while the citizens of munchkin-land are, as any child could see, a group of kids in multi-coloured knickerbockers and wigs.

What gives this "Wiz" whiz is the way that the cast all play instruments as they are spun back and forth by a mini-revolve. Every cloud has a silver handle, enabling swift access to cupboards crammed with instruments; as well as a horn and wind section, there's an accordion for the Tin Man (clunkingly good Simoo Walters), a



Jeremy Harrison and Katherine Oliver Laurence Burns

DOMINIC CAVENTISH

Tb 16 Jan (01635 46044)

'I'm no artist but...'

In the third part of our week-long series on the culture of criticism, we look at what it means to be an art critic. Who qualifies to eke words out of images? How are exhibitions chosen? And do art critics have any real influence anyway? By Tom Lubbock

So what do you do, then? And you can guess how pleased I am at having this chance to talk for the equivalent of about 10 minutes, uninterrupted, on the subject of my job. Actually, when the question comes, I quite often don't say "art critic". I say "commercial illustrator". That was once my living. It sounds a decent, banal sort of trade. It causes no trouble. Whereas "art critic" - well, it's one of the very worst classes of person.

What is wrong with art critics? They are as bad as other critics: vindictive, frustrated parasites, and then some. However, there are two main, extra negatives. First of all, the gap between art criticism and what it purports to criticise, seems especially wide: the visual and the verbal, and all that. So the art critic who spins words off images by the yard falls under the grave suspicion of simply faking it. (You may say that music criticism is trickier still, but the music critic somehow isn't such a folkloric figure.)

Second factor: Modernism in the visual arts has been more prominently bizarre than elsewhere. So it's always an art critic who - in the fable - rhapsodises the exquisite modernity of something that turns out later to be the work of a monkey. Indeed, for people who think modern art is a con, it is not the artists (honest nutters) but the critics (pretentious impostors) who are usually the real villains.

But if I've come clean, and if the conversation doesn't stick on those points, then there are a few questions that frequently get asked, and I thought I should note them down. Most asked question: do you get to choose the shows you write about? Curious one: an oddly practical inquiry. Like saying: do you art critics always get free catalogues? And we do, incidentally, always - or we make the most dreadful fuss. In fact, accumulating large glossy art-books for free is one of the real perks of the profession. I mean, what do the theatre critics get to show for it? Free programmes!

But what this choosing question means, I'm never quite sure. Is it a way of asking whether there's an "agenda" - some general tact policy, agreed between the media and the art world, about what shows are going to be covered? Or is it a way of saying: I can see your job must be quite a doss, but if you also choose the shows yourself, it would hardly be a job at all? As to an agenda, there is one. The process happens like this. The paper's arts editor will say to the

arts critic: you are going to review X, aren't you? Critic: Oh God, do I have to, nothing to say about it at all. Arts ed: No, I think it's quite major - readers will be aware of it, and want to hear a view. And what makes some show "major" is the usual rolling, self-reinforcing process of established fame, fresh publicity and coverage.

Of course, the whole process gets internalised, all down the line. These conversations don't usually happen. I don't need to be told which shows are major. I know it very well. And the straight answer to the question is that these major shows are pretty compulsory. Others are optional. Some weeks nothing presses and you're free to write about any show you want. Not that I wouldn't want to write about most of the compulsory ones anyway, and not that making people write about what they'd rather not is such a bad thing. For example, I didn't choose this present assignment, and thought it a little bit silly, but I seem to have got some true things said.

As to the charge of idleness, I can only say that for the perfect fusion of work and leisure, the TV critics must surely take the prize. And we art critics do at least see the work under real conditions. We often go in normal public opening hours, unlike film critics who are stuck in small, underground screening cinemas, exclusively in their own company. But I suppose that only makes the art critic's job sound nicer. Yes, it's a good job, no doubt about it.

So another question: what qualification do you have to be an art critic? And again: how do you define what makes one work better than another? These are the sort of questions that are called good questions - i.e. straight answers are impossible, and the right answers sound boring. After all, what qualification could there conceivably be? You can only describe how you came to have the job and how you made some particular judgement, and it can get quite dull.

Besides, these are really general critic queries. And the rest - who's your top artist ever? What about Hirst, or Ofili, or Saatchi? - are really general party talk. If you wanted to get the best out of your art critic interlocutor, I'd suggest another area of questioning. Think about how art critics both lack an important power and acquire a strange authority.

All critics, like all advertisers, tend to boast about how little effect they have, and really this is a question for proper research. But art critics

must be conscious that, with contemporary art at least, there's one clear limit on their influence: burns on seats is not a factor.

No art show closes for bad houses. Runs are fixed, though very occasionally extended. No artistic reputation is made through popular acclaim. The important business of contemporary art isn't done at public exhibitions. It's done in private galleries which the public are hardly encouraged to visit; at any rate, it's done between a small number of dealers, curators and rich people. So however persuasively art critics may speak, they're in a sort of limbo. Most of those they speak to are themselves without influence. Those who have influence don't

need the papers for advice. Though possibly the rudest, art critics can never be very ruinous.

True, a good notice and a good crowd are always welcome, and may make a little difference. But if *Sensation* last year had been a big flop, rather than a big hit, I wonder how much it would have affected the careers of the artists shown. Or put it like this: *Sensation* was a gamble - a gamble on new art having a wide appeal. And it paid off. But there was no obligation to make the gamble in the first place.

We're talking economics. We're talking about an audience of non-patrons: a public who don't pay the piper or call the tune. This is partly why mainstream contemporary art

can carry on in avant-garde mode, whereas mainstream theatre or cinema employ nearly traditional forms. But it also puts art's audience at a distance from the art. They know that the power of choice is elsewhere, and that they are, so to speak, only in attendance, only paying court. And this rarefied distance makes for mystery, and so gives art critics their odd authority.

Expert is the annoying, indicating word. Nobody gets called a book expert, and only a few get called cinema or music experts - and they're not the critics. But art critics easily get called art experts, as if privy to arcane. Or think about arts TV: nine-times-out-of-ten it is visual art that receives the living guide-book

treatment: the personal introduction to the mysterious but glorious world of art. It's not just that art looks nice, on telly. There's a felt need for these helpful ciceroni - Wendy Beckett, Waldemar Januszczak - to appreciate art on our behalf. Nobody feels the same need to be told how to watch films or listen to music.

Personally, this "let me take you by the hand and lead you through the streets of culture" approach makes me puke. I want everyone to be grown ups. I don't think art is inherently an arch mystery. I don't especially blame the poverty of visual education, either; I never had any myself. I blame the psychology of economics. It applies to new and old.

Visual art is this sacred mystery because it's out of our hands. It's never made the transition from a feudal to a market economy. It's still run by princes - rich individuals and public functionaries. It stands a thing apart, a treasure. No outrageous profanity by contemporary artists can dent its aura, and the so-called "age of mechanical reproduction" has made not the slightest difference. Nor can art critics, even when they try, easily slough off the role of mystagogue.

Sorry to moan. That's what I do, anyway. But as with most things, it isn't wholly I that does it.

Tomorrow: Paul Taylor on theatre criticism



Flapbutt (the famous young art critic): 'What's this pencil sketch I've found on the easel?'

Our artist: 'Oh it's by Flumpkin - the Impressionist all you chaps are so enthusiastic about. Clever isn't it?'

Flapbutt: 'Clever! Why it's divine! Such freshness, such naivete! Such a splendid scorn of conventional technique! Such a...'

Our artist: 'A thousand pardons! That's the wrong thing you've got hold of! That's just a scribble by this little scamp of a grandson of mine. Not very promising, I fear, but he's only four!'

'Punch', 7 July 1894

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THE INDEPENDENT COLLECTOR

JOHN WINDSOR'S GUIDE TO COLLECTING CONTEMPORARY ART: GILES REVELL

IN SUMMER last year, this ladybird was scurrying over tussocks of grass on the cliffs of Ballard Down, Dorset. Now it is a work of art - a triumph of nature and electron microscopy.

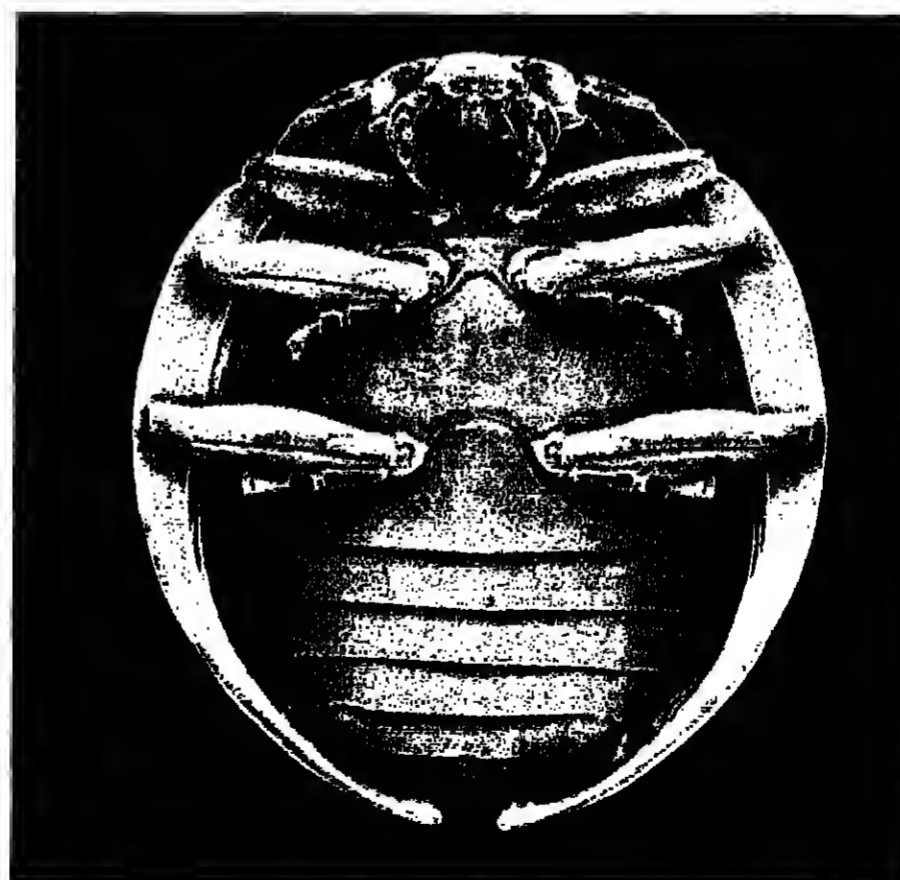
Giles Revell, a photographer and former geologist, captured it in a jamjar, killed it in his deep freeze, dehydrated it in alcohol - then spent a month scanning it hit by hit, joining the scans by computer. The result is a giant, 30in by 40in black-and-white pigment transfer on to art paper of a minutely detailed ladybird.

Ink with a non-fade life of 75 years has recently been developed - which means that Revell can produce saleable images of insects blown up to 12ft by 9ft, using an Iris ink-jet printer.

He uses a scanning electron microscope instead of a light microscope - electrons instead of photons - because its magnifying power is greater, and it produces a three-dimensional effect.

It can magnify up to 50,000 times. The ladybird is magnified a mere 50 times before processing. "It has a lot of form," says Revell. "Real surface relief."

He has also produced prints of magnifications of a woodlouse and a grasshopper, and an X-ray of a skate fish. "I was interested in recording everyday insects that we never think twice about," he says, "in order to reveal how complex they are. The ladybird's feet are like little



Giles Revell's ladybird: 'It has a lot of form.'

Michael Hoppen Photography

brushes and its underside is completely covered in tiny hairs that lie evenly, as if they have been combed."

Revell, 33, was introduced to light microscopy of minerals while training as a geologist. He worked for two years with the British Geological Survey before embarking on a career as a photographer in advertising.

"I also read a lot of books on natural history. They got me thinking."

The Natural History Museum's microscopy department told him how to use chemical fixatives to preserve dead insects, and put him in touch with the Royal Holloway University, which allowed him to use its £50,000 scanning electron microscope.

The insects need to be dehydrated - otherwise the vacuum in which electrons are fired at them would cause them to explode. The vacuum also ensures that the trajectory of the electrons. The image is in fact created by electrons emitted from the surface of the insect as the electron beam hits it.

The dead insect is coated in gold for maximum conductivity - like a tiny, gilded pharaoh in a vacuum-packed sarcophagus.

It can take up to two days to lay out an insect. Revell's aesthetic sense dictates that it should lie with legs and antennae symmetrically placed, not sticking out at all angles. "The trouble," says Revell, "is that they don't die tidily. I want to see them as symmetrical forms. The positions I put them in are not completely forced. They do pull up their legs symmetrically in real life - when resting on a leaf, for example."

"But they are very brittle after dehydration. You can spend a day arranging an insect with pins and prods - and then a leg falls off."

It takes even longer - about a month, working six to eight hours a day - to join 75 6in-by-7in electronic scans seamlessly by computer, to produce the complete picture. The computer file is then printed on to art paper.

If Revell ever succeeds in producing an electronic blow-up of a moth, his art will have reached its apotheosis. As soon as you touch a dead moth, its hair and the scales of its wings begin to fall off. "There must be a way," he says.

Prices: £3,000 plus VAT in editions of seven, from the Michael Hoppen Gallery, 3 Jubilee Place, London SW3 0171-352 3649. The gallery will be exhibiting Revell's work in May and June 1999

qualifies to
Lubbock

سكس من الاصل

HEALTH

Can eating peanuts during pregnancy lead to a fatal allergic reaction in your child? The Chief Medical Officer seems to think so, but the evidence is inconclusive. By Caroline Richmond

A hard nut to crack

Benjamin Dunlop was 13 months old when his mother, Sharon, gave him a taste of peanut butter. "I put a tiny bit on the end of a spoon and within a minute he had a bright red, swollen face. He came up in lumps - hives - and he vomited. He then went floppy and lethargic."

Although Sharon Dunlop is the resuscitation training officer for Westham Park Hospital in Slough, she panicked. "I got some Pirron - an antihistamine - and gave it to him. By then, his breathing was noisy and laboured." She ran outside as her husband, Duncan, arrived home, and they drove Benjamin to their doctor's surgery. Here his condition gradually improved, and he was allowed home when his symptoms had subsided.

Children who get peanut allergy tend to come from families with a tendency to allergy - "atopic" families. Ben's mother, Sharon, gets allergic asthma from contact with animals, especially dogs, and her brother suffers from eczema. Sharon Dunlop confesses that she had "a bit of a fetish" for Snickers bars, which contain peanuts, when she was pregnant with Benjamin. So is that why Ben is allergic to peanuts?

Earlier this year, the Chief Medical Officer suggested that mothers with a tendency to allergy "may wish" to avoid eating peanuts during pregnancy. His advice was based on a report from an expert Government committee, and followed a rise in the incidence of peanut allergy, which usually appears in babies and toddlers



Sharon Dunlop and her son, Benjamin - allergic to peanuts but not other nuts John Lawrence

In a case of identical twins (with the same genetic make-up) one was sensitive to peanuts while the other had no reaction

and now affects one in 200 four-year-olds. Other allergies are increasing, but peanut allergy is serious because it can cause fatal anaphylactic shock.

But clear evidence for the Government's advice is lacking, and the emphasis on what mothers "may wish" to do in pregnancy underlines the fact. Deborah Fox and Gideon Lack, doctors at the Paediatric Allergy, Asthma and Immunology Clinic at St Mary's Hospital in London, believe avoiding peanuts may even increase the prevalence of peanut allergy.

In a letter to *The Lancet*, they said that the Government guidelines that suggest atopic pregnant and breast-feeding mothers should avoid peanuts are not based on evidence, and have caused distress to mothers with peanut-allergic children.

They described seeing mothers of peanut-allergic patients who fear that their child's allergy was caused by the nuts they ate in pregnancy, and other mothers who had deliberately avoided eating them - but still had peanut-allergic children. In the case of identical twins seen in their clinic, one twin has often been found to be sensitive to peanuts while the other has had no reaction at all.

Given that identical twins have the same genetic make-up and are exposed during pregnancy to the same substances from the mother's blood, this suggests that something more than eating nuts in pregnancy causes the allergic reaction.

They do, however, accept that excessive peanut consumption could be associated with peanut allergy. Dr Fox told *The Independent* of one mother of two peanut-allergic children who ate peanuts, peanut butter or Snickers bars 25 to 30 times a week. "But there is also evidence that complete abstinence is associated with allergy," she added. "When mothers ask us what they should do in their next pregnancy and breast-feeding, we advise them to eat small quantities."

Dr Richard Pumphrey, consultant immunologist at St Mary's Hospital, Manchester, is also sceptical about the Government's advice. "We see more and more young patients with nut allergy, and mothers often ask if it could be because they ate nuts when

pregnant," he says. "There may be a small chance of sensitisation if the mother eats nuts during pregnancy, but there is no firm evidence that sensitisation occurs in the womb."

John Warner, professor of child health at Southampton University, and a member of the Government's working group on peanut allergy said: "On the balance of evidence, and given that peanuts are not an essential part of anyone's diet, it seems reasonable to recommend that during pregnancy and breast-feeding, women with a family history of allergies do not have these products."

However, when Professor Warner was interviewed for an article that appeared in the *British Medical Journal*, he was quoted as saying:

"Whether avoiding the allergen makes a difference is an act of faith."

Pamela Ewan, the consultant at the allergy and clinical immunology department at Cambridge's Addenbrooke's Hospital, says that there is "no evidence of sensitisation to peanut allergen *in utero*", and believes that more research needs to be done so that "public health measures can be soundly based".

Despite the lack of evidence, Dr Jonathan Hourihane, from the Institute of Child Health and Great Ormond Street Hospital, says that when mothers ask, he advises them to avoid peanuts because "no one comes to any harm from not eating them".

He agrees with the Government's advice, but says: "I don't believe in the

nanny state, and anyway, a lot of mothers have already decided what they are going to do in their next pregnancy."

And when it comes to the question of giving young children peanuts or peanut butter, Dr Hourihane adds: "In south-east Asia and some parts of Africa, it's a weaning food."

Dr Fox makes a similar point in her letter to *The Lancet*: "In south-east Asian societies, in which groundnut is part of the staple diet, there is a low prevalence of peanut allergy."

Peanut allergy ranges from a mild reaction, with a fairly runny nose or slight skin blotches, to the life-threatening, with swelling of the throat and allergic shock (anaphylaxis). Symptoms are most severe in teenagers and young adults, and there are at least five deaths a year. These can be prevented if the allergy is recognised by an allergy specialist, and people at risk carry an automatic adrenaline syringe called an EpiPen.

However, people with allergies have very little chance of getting good specialist advice: there are only 68 hospitals in Britain with an allergy clinic, and only 13 of those are run by a consultant allergist who is trained in dealing with all types of allergy. Only four of the 13 are outside London - in Cambridge, Leicester, Liverpool and Southampton.

Even in Cambridge, a centre of excellence, Dr Ewan says that another consultant is needed. The clinics are regularly overbooked, they see 2,200 outpatients a year, and the waiting-list is 15 months long, though cases that are urgent are seen more quickly.

In south-east Asia and parts of Africa, peanuts are used as weaning food and the prevalence of peanut allergy is low

In 1993, Sarah Reading died, aged 17, in a restaurant in Guildford after eating a dessert that contained traces of peanut. She didn't carry an EpiPen, which might have saved her life, because neither she nor her family knew they existed. Her father, David, responded by starting the Anaphylaxis Campaign, which has 5,000 members. It has joined hands with the British Allergy Foundation and the Royal College of Physicians to press the Department of Health to recognise allergy as a speciality, to train more doctors in it, and also to increase the number of clinics.

After his acute episode, Benjamin, who is now two-and-a-half, was referred to Dr Jan Reiser at Lister Hospital, Stevenage, a paediatrician with an interest in allergy. Because his allergic response was so severe, Dr Reiser tested him for other nut allergies. He doesn't have them, and he can eat other, tree-grown nuts.

The Dunlopes keep an EpiPen in the house in case Benjamin needs it, and there is also one at his nursery. If Mrs Dunlop has another child, will she eat peanuts during the pregnancy? "Definitely not, and my advice is don't try a child on any form of nuts until they are at least three."

Anaphylaxis Campaign, 2 Clockhouse Road, Farnborough GU14 7QY. Tel 01252 542 029. For a free information pack, send an A4, self-addressed envelope with two first-class stamps

Dentists who drill for gold



JEREMY LAURANCE

A DISTURBING photograph appeared in the medical press last month. It showed a queue of people snaking down a pavement in a provincial town. There was a man in a suit, a mother with two children, a lad in a denim jacket - ordinary people from different backgrounds queuing for... the dentist.

A day and a half after a new NHS dentists' surgery opened in Truro, Cornwall, more than 1,000 patients had flocked to register. New patients queued for hours and some travelled from 100 miles away to avail themselves of what is supposed to be a readily available national service.

The destruction of NHS dentistry is a scandal that has gone almost unreported. Ministers claim that there are more NHS dentists than ever, but increasing numbers treat only children and the poor on the NHS. For an adult, paying patient, finding an NHS dentist is difficult everywhere and next to impossible in the south of the country.

For those who fail in the search - or balk at travelling 100 miles to have a tooth filled - a private dentist is the only option. But for many the cost of treatment is unaffordable.

The dentist peers into your mouth, announces what must be done, and starts to drill. As the precious enamel disappears in a whirl of grit and water, the dental practice's bank balance notches up at least £3 every minute.

A new book describes a patient who received an estimate of £58,000 from a private dentist for a "full mouth rehabilitation". That puts Martin Amls's reputed £20,000 bill in perspective. Fees of £100 for a filling that would cost £10 on the NHS are common.

In a market with prices such as these, tooth preservation becomes a critical priority. I am one person who has given up the major part of his dentition to over-eager dentists down the years. Conscientiously visiting the dentist every six months - my first serious error - I was always told so much work was needed that it would trigger the maximum NHS payment. Today, my mouth contains

enough amalgam to trigger a bomb scare.

It was, therefore, with a strong feeling of relief that, more than a decade ago, I came upon an NHS dentist with a different, low-key style.

Anne Sherman has practised from the same surgery in Hackney for more than 25 years. Warm, but tough, she understands what too few dentists seem to: that teeth are for preserving, and drilling should be a last resort.

Now she has written a book - a guide to dentistry based on two decades of answering patients' questions - co-authored with her late husband, Barrie Sherman, the writer and broadcaster who died last year.

Like the woman, the book delivers direct, straightforward advice in a plain, unadorned style - and includes the anecdote about the £58,000 "rehabilitation" estimate.

A couple of years ago, after another of my overfilled teeth gave way, I consulted a private patient who received an estimate of £58,000 from a private dentist for a "full mouth rehabilitation". That puts Martin Amls's reputed £20,000 bill in perspective. Fees of £100 for a filling that would cost £10 on the NHS are common.

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There is a subtle killer in the air

I AM worried that I may be suffering from carbon monoxide poisoning at work. What are the symptoms?

Carbon monoxide is an odourless, colourless gas that can be detected only with special monitoring equipment. Exposure to low concentrations of the gas leads to collapse, unconsciousness and death. But the symptoms of exposure to low concentrations are much more vague and can be identical to the symptoms of food poisoning or flu (without fever). The commonest symptom is a headache, which affects 90 per cent of people who are exposed to the gas. Nausea and

vomiting affect about half of people who are exposed, and a feeling of dizziness or that the room is spinning around (vertigo) affects some people. Whole families who seem to be suffering from food poisoning may in fact be affected by carbon monoxide poisoning. If more than one person in the house is affected, or if the symptoms always occur in one place (either work or home), the cause could be carbon monoxide poisoning. Corgi-registered gas engineers and local environmental health officers can measure carbon monoxide levels, and the Health and Safety Executive has a helpline on 0800 300363. Carbon monoxide detectors and alarms are useful to

A QUESTION OF HEALTH



DR FRED KAVALIER

prevent acute poisoning, but they do not detect low levels of the gas.

MY MOTHER seems to be allergic to something that

causes her scalp to become red and irritated. The only shampoo she can tolerate is now being withdrawn by the manufacturers. Is there any way to find out exactly what chemicals she is allergic to?

Your mother may be able to discover the precise cause of her allergy by having her skin tested with a range of common chemical additives. This can be done by a dermatologist and she should ask to be referred to a hospital dermatology clinic for skin testing. If a cause is found, you will have to contact shampoo manufacturers to discover what chemicals are in their products. In the meantime, I suggest she tries Infaderm

shampoo, which is manufactured by Goldshield Pharmaceuticals.

MY DOCTOR frequently consults a thick paperback book which appears to contain a wealth of information about drugs and their side-effects. Is this available to the public?

This book, the *British National Formulary* (BNF), is full of information about drugs, including their side-effects, interactions with other drugs, and doses. It indicates which drugs are available without a prescription. It also provides sensible guidance on how to treat many illnesses. Unlike most of the drugs that it describes, it is available

without a doctor's prescription. It might make an unusual Christmas present for both hypochondriacs and people who are interested in drugs and illnesses. It is updated twice a year, and the current edition is BNF 36. You can order a copy from the BMJ Bookshop, Burton Street, London WC1H 9JR, 0171-387 4499, for £14.95 including postage.

Please send questions to A Question of Health, *The Independent*, 1 Canada Square, Canary Wharf, London E14 5DL; fax 0171- 293 2182; or e-mail to health@independent.co.uk. Dr Kavalier cannot respond personally to questions

If you need a transfusion during an operation, recycling your own blood will help you to recover faster. By Paul Dinsdale

Just what the patient ordered.

When Claire Rayner had to have an operation to replace her knee joint, she knew that it would involve the loss of a lot of blood, so she thought she would rather have her own than a donation from a stranger. "I wanted to give some of my own blood well in advance and have it back when I needed it," she said.

Ms Rayner was disappointed, however, because the hospital did not operate an autologous blood transfusion scheme. This process, where the patient's own blood is used, is already relieving pressure on donated blood stocks and improving recovery times for patients. However, 20 hospitals around the country are now using an even smarter method, called intra-operative salvage.

"What happens in most hospitals is that, when a patient loses blood during an operation, it is collected and poured away, which is an astonishing waste of a precious resource," says Dr Mike Thomas, a consultant in transfusion medicine and the chairman of the special interest group of the British Blood Transfusion Society.

During the intra-operative salvage process, blood is taken away by suction, as in normal operations, and is then fed through a tube to a machine which begins a washing procedure to make it ready for transfusion. The main advantage in patients being given their own blood is that it helps to avoid the efficiency of their immune system being reduced as a result of using somebody else's blood.

"The body does not recognise the donated blood cells as its own and does not accept them at first, and this allows bacteria to creep in by default," explains Dr Thomas. "Patients who have autologous transfusions are therefore less likely to develop post-operative infections and, on average, they leave hospital two to five days earlier than those who receive donated (or homologous) blood."

At Southmead Hospital in Bristol, a study of orthopaedic patients who had received autologous transfusions showed this to be the case, and the hospital's use of costly blood stocks and antibiotics has also been reduced.

Dr Carl Waldmann, the director of intensive care at the Royal Berkshire Hospital Trust, in Reading, says: "The introduction of intra-operative cell salvage has proved very beneficial as we now use less donated blood, which is very expensive - we estimate that donated blood costs around £50 per unit (about a pint). Patients are comfortable in the knowledge that they will, in most cases, be given their own blood," he explains. "There is a genuine underlying concern among patients about the potential risk of exposure to HIV."

One patient who has felt the benefit of recycling his own blood is Stanley Yentis, aged 72, who lives in Heron Island, Berkshire. He was diagnosed as having an aortic



Stocks of donated blood could fall to their lowest levels of the year this Christmas. Claire Rayner (below) feels 'so grateful' to the person who donated blood for her operation

John Moss

aneurism, a potentially life-threatening condition, and went into hospital for a three-hour operation. During the operation he was given an autologous transfusion of around 12 units of his own blood.

"The doctor told me I would be given my own blood, but it didn't really mean much to me," says Mr Yentis. "I certainly had no problems with the system, and I felt fine four days later."

Mr Yentis developed no post-operative infection, the risk of which is higher in older patients, and was allowed home four days after surgery, whereas most patients recovering from similar operations have to stay in hospital for around 10 days. But Mr Yentis, a retired civil engineer, was riding his bicycle again within four weeks.

Dr Waldmann says that the most beneficial use of the process is in orthopaedics and vascular surgery. It is also used in emergency opera-

tions, although not all are suitable. "The machine costs from £10,000 to £20,000, but once the hospital starts using it there are long-term cost savings in donated blood. But



one problem, from the bureaucratic point of view, can be getting approval from managers to transfer money that would have spent on donated blood to buying a machine."

The National Blood Transfusion Service has warned that, in the run-up to Christmas, stocks of donated blood could fall to their lowest levels of the year. The service has urged

risers due to an increase in road accidents and other injuries. The Royal College of Physicians (RCP) has recently endorsed the mounting evidence of the benefits of

salvage, the RCP said that "provided a rigid standard operating procedure is in place and the equipment is easily available with appropriate staff training, the side-effects are fewer than those associated with allogeneic (donated) transfusion".

Until recently, the only option for patients who wanted to be given transfusions of their own blood was to find one of the few hospitals that has a pre-deposit scheme, in which patients give their own blood before a planned operation. Most hospitals found that this was too complex administratively and too expensive to run in terms of blood storage and nurse time. Nevertheless, the RCP predicts that pre-deposit schemes will become more widespread.

Which will be good news for Claire Rayner if she ever needs another operation. Ms Rayner, who is the chairwoman of the Patients' Association, says that she did not argue when she was told she

could not pre-store her own blood. "I was prepared to believe the reasons were good ones," she says. She had her operation but afterwards became anaemic and required a further blood transfusion. "I felt so ill, and it made a huge difference. I was so grateful to the person who made the donation. I thought about how they had done that for me, and it just hit me."

Ms Rayner welcomed the circular issued by the health department in consultation with the Patients' Association urging hospitals to do more to conserve blood.

"People have developed a bit of a thing about donated blood, which is unfortunate because it has saved thousands of lives. Collecting blood during surgery and putting it back sounds a brilliant idea. It would be enormously reassuring."

Call the National Blood Transfusion Service on 0345 711711

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NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that a Petition was on 1st December 1998 presented to Her Majesty's High Court of Justice for the confirmation of the reduction of the share capital of the above named Company from £20,000,000 to £10,000,000.

AND NOTICE IS FURTHER GIVEN that the said Petition is directed to be heard before the Registrar of the Companies Court at the Royal Courts of Justice, Strand, London WC2A 2LL on Wednesday the 23rd January 1999.

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Sex, lies and evolutionists

OLIVER JAMES



BRITAIN ON THE COUCH

BOFFINS HAVE discovered a Peruvian tribe whose men fancy apple-shaped waists wider than hips) women, in contrast to the Marilyn Monroe and Kate Moss shapes that we favour. Shown pictures of the latter, the witty Peruvians suggested that they probably suffered from diarrhoea. This supposedly presents a challenge to the evolutionary psychologists' claim that our tastes reflect a universal, genetically programmed concept of female beauty.

In fact, for many of the issues that are taken as evolutionary gospel truth we do not need Peruvian exceptions to see that social rather than genetic explanations remain pivotal. There is a substantial body of work by the American psychologist Brett Silverstein which shows the centrality of social processes. Silverstein established that the modern "thin standard" for female attractiveness has fluctuated. Magazine photographs of women demonstrate that in the mid-Twenties and from the mid-Sixties to the present, standards have become very thin (as measured by low ratio bust and hip to waist measurements). Why should these

fluctuations occur? Silverstein points to the fact that men have been more likely in most societies to be high achievers. At the same time, curvaceous women are perceived to be less intelligent than non-curvaceous ones, so women who want to be successful may minimise their femininity. Silverstein has established that thinness and achievement are connected in women. Responding to silhouettes of female figures, women who preferred smaller breasts and buttocks were also more likely to choose "masculine" careers. Added to this, investigations of historical archives of medical disorders have found references to strivings for intellectual or academic achievement. In former

times it was difficult for women to achieve recognition, and the desire to appear more masculine may have been intensified.

Eating disorders are common among adolescent women who strive for high achievement. Girls from fee-paying schools are more at risk than those at state schools, and upper-class girls are more likely to desire to be thinner than lower-class ones. A further study of 188 women students showed that those who had "male" aspirations were more at risk of eating disorders, as were women who said they wished they had been born a boy. In short, women who want to have male achievements are more likely to aspire to a male body shape.

Silverstein also tested this theory by correlating the bust-to-waist ratios of models in magazine photographs since the beginning of this century, with the proportion of working women. When the number of women graduates and professionals was growing, there was a thinner body shape. Silverstein's work suggests that the powerful stereotypes about women's bodies have a large effect. Busty women are assumed to be incompetent, and it

should be no surprise if this makes women who want to be taken seriously in male domains want to look more like men.

This body of research and supporting evidence by other researchers has been ignored by the media. Almost none of the unintelligentsia who dominate our media will have heard of Silverstein. Most have an arts degree and know nothing about social science. They cheerfully swallow the latest wild speculation from the evolutionists. A predominantly Tory press peddles what are, in many cases, modern myths dressed up as science. The evolutionary myths nearly always uphold a right-wing status quo: that women are cut out only for mothering, men are naturally promiscuous, and so on. The ideological function of most evolutionary "science" is the same as that served by the Christian religion in the British Empire: proving that our way is natural and therefore, best.

Oliver James's 'Britain on the Couch: Why We're Unhappier Compared With 1950 Despite Being Richer' is available in paperback (Arrow, £7.99)

MEDIA

The growing pains of Piers

Ever since he arrived at *The Mirror*, a lot of newspaper pundits have been waiting for Piers Morgan to fall flat on his face. But the latest sales figures show that he has turned around the fortunes of his red top. By Paul McCann

Could it be that Piers Morgan, the 33-year-old ex-public schoolboy responsible for the "Achtung! Surrender" headline who arranged for a reporter to buy drugs from the Home Secretary's son, is the man with his finger on the pulse of modern Britain?

The sales figures for his newspaper, *The Mirror*, seem to encourage the idea. Years of decline in the red-top market, accompanied by years of smug carping from the broadsheets, seem to have been turned on their head.

In the latest figures from the Audit Bureau of Circulation, *The Mirror* has proved that rumours of the death of the red-top are exaggerated. Its sales are up 66,000, or 3 per cent, compared with last November. Even better, and more reliable, is the fact that its last six months have been consistently up on the same six months in 1997.

After the doom-laden predictions of just a few months ago, when *The Mirror* was overtaken by the *Daily Mail*, *The Mirror* is back where you expect it to be – the second best-selling newspaper in Britain.

Morgan sits in his office, taking an obvious enjoyment from the good figures; he is even confident enough to admit to some mistakes: "When I first got here from the *News of the World*, my initial instinct was to try to go head to head with *The Sun*, which was a mistake. It misjudged the readership here, and that was a major moment for me personally."

"What I've learnt over the last three years is that *Mirror* readers are very different animals from, perhaps, *Sun* readers and *News of the World* readers. I might have got away with the 'Achtung! Surrender' stuff on *The Sun*, but you can't get away with it on *The Mirror*, and I've learnt some valuable lessons."

Ever since that German-baiting Euro '96 headline, Morgan has been targeted as the unacceptable face of tabloid journalism. He is certainly the highest-profile tabloid editor since his mentor, Kelvin MacKenzie.

"Sure, occasionally I get called a complete tosser, but it doesn't bother me. If you are my age and do my job, you are going to get attention. And I don't exactly run from that – it gets attention for the paper. If the BBC and ITV want to come and interview me, it saves me thousands of pounds in advertising. If you are not the market leader, you have to be very tricky in the book to get attention for your paper, and that has been my strategy."

"If you look at the headlines of the last year, with Jack Straw's son, the Saudi nurse, Prince Harry, the interview with Trevor Rees-Jones, we have constantly been leading the agenda. And getting *The Mirror* front page on to television helps sell copies of the paper."

The other time Morgan and *The Mirror* got coverage this year was



Piers Morgan: 'Occasionally I get called a complete tosser, but it doesn't bother me. If you are my age and do my job, you are going to get attention' Peter Macdiarmid

not of the kind even he can welcome. In September, the *Mirror* Group chief executive David Montgomery issued a public rebuke to Morgan at the Labour Party conference. In front of Tony Blair, Montgomery criticised Morgan for being negative about the Prime Minister's conference speech. "There was a misunderstanding," says Morgan. "But now all is happiness. And the good performance of the paper has helped – as it usually does between a chief executive and his editor."

Morgan believes that there are two separate strands to the turnaround in *The Mirror*'s sales. They might be termed the money factor and the Kelvin factor.

The first he attributes to the oft-criticised *Mirror* Group management. "They decided two years ago that they had to invest in the paper. A budget of £16m was found, to hire more journalists, to produce more sections, more magazines. On Sat-

urday we had a 136-page paper with all sorts of people and lifestyles covered. We have Internet supplements – every day of the week we are giving people a reason to buy."

Much of the money went on columnists. There are 22 new ones working for the paper who were not there two-and-a-half years ago, including Brian Reddy and Tony Parsons. In total, there are 40 more journalists on the paper than when Morgan became editor and he wants to emphasise how hard his staff has worked to turn the paper around: "The *Mirror* has been getting a kicking from *The Sun* for 30 years and I think over the last 18 months we've given them a kicking. There is a feeling of real confidence here."

The Kelvin factor relates to the difference made when the former *Sun* editor gave up on Live TV to become deputy chief executive of *Mirror* Group, with responsibility for all

the titles, and especially the most important one.

"Kelvin's arrival was the catalyst to take the paper on to the next sphere. He is in my view far and away the greatest tabloid editor that there has been, and totally in tune with how the readership has changed. Everyone thought he would take *The Mirror* downmarket, and of course we went the other way – although it's almost incongruous to say we've gone upmarket, because that indicates a class distinction. I don't make any class distinction; if people ask, 'where do you want to get readers from', I'll say 'anywhere'. I'll have a *Times* reader. I'll have a *Daily Star* reader. We are seeing a change to the way people aspire to things. The reader is more demanding now than they have ever been."

"It would be wrong to say that as soon as Kelvin left, something went out of the paper. I had produced

the paper that he wanted – I edited, he managed."

Morgan believes that the other factor in *The Mirror*'s revival is that *The Sun* has lost its way. "It's not because they don't produce good papers – they do – and it's not because David Yelland is not a bright guy – he is. I think their problem is that they don't really know what they stand for any more."

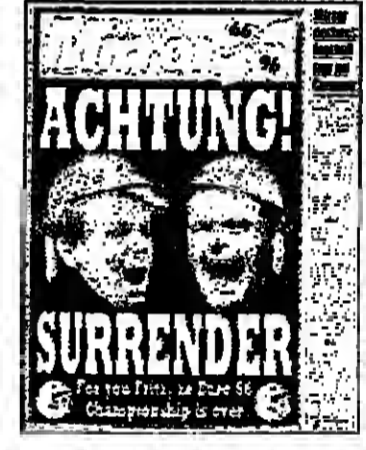
"They've been backing losing tickets and doing U-turns all over the place. In the last year alone, there's been a big U-turn on Tony Blair, a U-turn on the Millennium Dome and another U-turn on gays."

"The *Sun* when it was at its most rampaging and successful never did U-turns on anything. It didn't have to – it understood exactly what it was about. Indeed, it never had to declare what it was about; it would just be obvious by the treatment in the paper. They've lost their confidence and we've regained ours."

On top of the change in his readers' class ambitions, Morgan believes social attitudes have moved back in *The Mirror*'s direction.

"The two really big events of recent years, Tony Blair's election and Diana's death, have definitely created a culture in this country which is more compassionate and understanding than during the Thatcher years. The *Sun* prospered when there was a selfish, nasty edge to life, and I think because of our core values as a compassionate, Labour-supporting, campaigning paper, we have benefited from the change."

Piers Morgan has rarely seemed lacking in confidence, even when being hammered for his antics by his rivals' sales figures or by commentators. The man who fell into a vat of ebullience as a baby has had the cheek to survive in a job a lot of people claimed he could not do. Now that things are going well, he is likely to become irrepresible.



Four of Morgan's more infamous front pages. 'You can get away with 'Achtung! Surrender' on *The Sun*, but not on *The Mirror*. I've learned some valuable lessons.'

ANALYSIS PAUL MCCANN

Young readers desert newspapers

ANOTHER MONTH, another set of depressing circulation figures for the national press. Every single daily newspaper, with the exception of one, lost sales in November compared with October.

The only paper to buck the trend was *The Guardian*, which increased sales by an average of just 800 copies a day – and that was largely due to increasing the number of papers they ship overseas (a tactic employed by most newspapers). Every copy sent, rather than sold, to other countries counts against circulation.

The *Independent*'s sale actually increased month on month, but some 4,000 copies came off the paper's bulk order.

Making a year-on-year comparison doesn't make things much healthier. The total daily newspaper market is selling 152,000 copies a day fewer than it did last November. Only three daily papers have increased sales year on year, and one of those, the *Financial Times*, has done all of that overseas.

Particularly hard hit has been *The Times*, which has raised its price to 30p every day of the week. It has lost 53,000 buyers compared to last year. Also down by 53,000 is *The Daily Telegraph*, which last year worked hard on its subscriptions with a voucher giveaway and cross-pro-

motion of the *Sunday Telegraph*.

The *Sun*, too, has had a bad month. It lost 59,000 copies compared with October, when it lost 12,000. David Yelland has been unable to stem the paper's sales decline during his first six months in charge. The paper lost 100,000 readers compared with the same six months last year. The rate of decline has slowed slightly, however, to 2.65 per cent.

In the Sunday market, only the *Independent on Sunday*, which reduced its price for one day, has risen month on month, by 1,500 copies a day – and compared to last November, every Sunday paper's circulation is down. In all, the Sunday market sold a staggering 773,000 fewer papers on Sundays in November than they did last year.

"Newspapers are a long-term declining market," says Laura James, head of press for New PHD, a media buying agency. She believes the long-term consequence of such decline will mean that it becomes impossible for advertisers to hit large numbers of people quickly.

"We have not hit the crisis yet," she says. "But already advertisers are having to find more specialist areas to get coverage of their target audience to go up." This accounts for the growth in the magazine market

NATIONAL NEWSPAPER CIRCULATION			
Daily newspapers	October 1998	November 1998	% change
<i>The Mirror</i>	2,339,001	2,322,684	-0.70
<i>Daily Star</i>	558,402	539,944	-3.31
<i>The Sun</i>	3,718,534	3,658,704	-1.61
<i>The Express</i>	1,118,981	1,097,895	-1.88
<i>Daily Mail</i>	2,387,867	2,310,025	-3.26
<i>Daily Telegraph</i>	1,047,861	1,041,447	-0.61
<i>Guardian</i>	393,856	394,655	+0.20
<i>Independent</i>	223,110	221,229	-0.84
<i>Times</i>	766,999	748,197	-2.45
Sunday newspapers			
<i>News of the World</i>	4,316,825	4,196,149	-2.80
<i>Sunday Mirror</i>	2,052,371	2,015,652	-1.79
<i>Sunday People</i>	1,705,359	1,659,089	-2.71
<i>Mail on Sunday</i>	2,396,598	2,321,976	-3.11
<i>Express on Sunday</i>	1,027,820	1,003,064	-2.41
<i>Independent on Sunday</i>	253,629	255,196	+0.62
<i>Observer</i>	404,422	395,205	-2.28
<i>Sunday Telegraph</i>	823,587	816,604	-0.85
<i>Sunday Times</i>	1,398,044	1,364,276	-2.42

and radio, as advertisers look for other ways to get their message in front of people.

Particularly problematic is the disappearance of the 15-to-24-year-old reader. They are the fastest-disappearing demographic group, and they should be the future market for newspapers.

"They are getting their news from other sources, and the role of

newspapers in their life is changing," says Ms James. "Instead of religiously buying the same newspaper every day for news, we are seeing a generation who decide to buy a newspaper on a Monday for sport, and who will then not buy a newspaper all week until Saturday when they may very well buy a different newspaper for its magazine section and television listings."

THE PEOPLE'S editor, Neil Wallis, suffered a sense of humour failure last week after a news item entitled "Hunt on for the Chiswick flasher" appeared on *The People*'s news list. The story appeared on the list after two reporters, one from *The Sun* and one from *The Mirror*, were going to their weekly tennis match in Chiswick. As they passed the home of Mr Wallis, he opened the curtains to his bedroom in his birthday suit, providing a full view of his editorial assets. He recognised the reporters, who recognised him, but is more unhappy with the news desk wit who put him on the editorial list.



THE WORD ON THE STREET

MILLIONAIRES WERE made by the purchase of the ad agency Abbott Mead Vickers by the giant American agency Omnicom last week, but AMV had already made many people rich. One person it made £5m better off a few years ago was Matthew Freud, whose PR agency the ad agency bought. Shortly after the deal, presumably to show his gratitude, Freud arrived at a business meeting in a brand-new Aston Martin which carried the licence plate H1 AMV.

IT WAS all go at *The Sun* last week as staff prepared for the annual Christmas bash. It was a big news day, with General Pinochet dominating a list of good stories. More pressing for the picture desk, however, was

the constant stream of requests from the deputy editor, Rebekah Wade, for a photograph of children's television characters Crystal Tins and Alastair. She needed to know what they looked like for her costume.

But Ms Wade's bit of bother is nothing compared to that of her boss, David Yelland. He has had to change his home telephone number because of its similarity to that of a local pizza restaurant. At least he thinks those late-night calls from a swearing Australian are orders for pizza.

IT SEEMS that the producers of *Mersey Blues*, the upcoming fly-on-the-wall documentary about Liverpool policemen, had a fame-hungry detective on their side. The film crew spent four years following a team of coppers, which included one

THE BEST "top" things lists of the year are always in *The Face*. This year, the magazine provides us with *The Ten Stupidest Things Said on the Jo Wiley Show*. For example, there's Björk on fame: "Before you get famous, you've got hair, right, and it grows a bit. Then it grew a bit. People come up to me now and say: 'You've got a new image!' 'Cause of the hair.'"

THE FACE'S editor, Adam Higginbotham, was one of those approached by *Time Out* in its current search for a new editor: He turned them down, as did Tom Hodgkinson, editor of the innovative and frankly silly magazine for loafers, *The Idler*. So up steps Vicky Mayer, launch editor of *Inside Soap* magazine and former features editor of the *TV Times*.

TELEVISION REVIEW

[illegible]

However, *Loose Jointz* City had many shortcomings, mainly as a result of the intensely personal slant that it took. It pointed in no close on a handful of cases that it found itself unable to come to any firm conclusions. Psychologists were enlisted to make notes about unemployment, money worries, and the emotional reluctance of male couples. "Tony Wilson, aging your guru and superno of Factory Records, popped up to talk about his personal work for Cilla, a neighbor for your very man."

valuing an ad on *20/20* Pacific. "Do you have trouble finding your dog in the grass?" Al Livingstone's report found the widest range of movers and gardening equipment, and all of the loved possible prizes. "Wilson's turn was marked by high irony, including 'the prom' with footage of a black shooting victim being picked up in an overcrowded hospital. Centrally, this was a document of white self-delusion: "While is one of history's most respected men," behind a screen, New York,

from the bedroom. "Dugane, there's Barbara, naked, with Woodworth, and got it wrong; an one-cugged nosebleed," he protested. "I can't resist," we're just traditional people," as he sat back, around the garden, semi-naked, it's odd to hear, most disturbingly, a can-jacker (Wheaton's only substantial black interviewee) depicting that the police were supplying him with weapons in the hope that he'd kill as many of the fellow blacks as possible.

Whether we were being treated to a moral lecture, now or a representative sample of South African opinion, it was impossible to tell. What seemed clear, however, was that truth and reconciliation are as hard to find in the new South Africa as they were in the old.

Channel 5

8.00 5.2 News and Sport (S) (65326684, 7.00 **WideWorld** (R), (S) (6) (670747, 7.30 **Amishville** (S) (27261017), 7.35 **Winizes House** (S) (S) (6381950), 8.00 **Havenazora** (S) (7322022), 8.30 **Cardpuncher Farm** (7795123), 9.00 **The Green Garden Game** (R), (S) (7359612), 9.30 **The Great Garden Game** (R), (S) (7359612), 9.30 **Guest Gardeners Postcards** (4550370), 9.30 **The Open Wintry Show** (6423939), 10.20 **Sunset Beach** (S) (7454718), 11.00 **Lazra (R)**, (S) (6888631), 11.00 **5.2 News at Noon** (S) (7702689), 12.00 **Family Affair** (S) (7232399), 1.00 **The Bond and the Beautiful** (S) (6186318), 1.30 **Sons and Daughters** (2315370), 2.00 **100 Per Cent Gold** (S) (6886320), 2.30 **Good Afternoon** (S) (2380825).

3.30 FILM After the Promise (Maid Grooms 1987 US). Above-peak TV movie starring Mel Harmon as an itinerant carpenter in Depression-era America, judged an unfit father to his four sons after his wife dies. The biased, on-rail-swains drama follows Harmon's battle to reunite the family (778912).

5.20 The Raucous Show, Actress Liz Smith is one of the guests on the lively chat show (922844).

(5) (2538889).

9.30 Family Affairs. Jack confesses all after walking straight into Mafie and Amies' van, Ciri sees August's bag of cash under the bed (S) (T) (2518241).

7.00 5 News, Including First on Five. Kirsty Young embles ol with the headlines (S) (T) (634733).

7.30 Wild at Home. While documentary about the return to the Shilland lease of thousands of puffin early summer, they come to land on the sand spit - their favourite food, apparently (S) (T) (2518285).

8.00 Are You Seeing Cheated? Christie Hudson uncovers more fraudulent behaviour (S) (T) (6853489).

8.30 Battle of the Sexes - What's the Story? Vanessa Campbridge takes a seasonal look at alcohol and drinking and the problems it creates - 10pm

8.00 Film Color of Justice (Jeremy Kagan, 1997 US). Courtroom drama about a gang of car-jacking black teenagers in the Bronx charged with the death of a white suburban woman. An unusually good cast (F. Murray Abraham, Judd Hirsch, Gregory Hines) elevates the issue-driven TV movie above the average. (S) (V) (583898947).



Football Show (888) 571-9191, 4 a.m. Pioneer: Call Block H (888) 004-1, \$3.00 (100 Per Cent P) (725) 210-10, To Rem.

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